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NEARBY

PM's visit spurs roadworks in parts of city

BENGALURU

Residents of Kengeri-Kommaghatta had been putting up with pothole-filled bad stretches of road for several months now. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kommaghatta, to lay foundation stone for the suburban rail project on Monday, has come as a blessing in disguise for the residents of the area.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

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'Stop loudspeaker use during restricted hours'

BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday directed the State government to conduct a drive to stop the use of loudspeakers between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 8

PROPERTYPLUS ▸ PAGES 6 & 7

Anger rages against Agnipath in many States

■ Man killed as police open fire to stop protesters in Telangana's Secunderabad

■ Hundreds injured, scores arrested as agitation turns violent at several places

■ Trains and public property damaged; Railways say over 340 trains affected

THE HINDU BUREAU
NEW DELHI/ KOLKATA/ PATNA/ HYDERABAD

Massive protests demanding the rollback of the Agnipath scheme continued across the country for the third day on Friday. One protester was killed in police firing in Secunderabad in Telangana and hundreds of people injured in various places in the violence that marked the agitation against the new armed forces recruitment scheme. Scores of people have been arrested or detained by the police in various States.

The Opposition parties, trade unions and outfits of students, youth and farmers pledged support for the protests and demanded immediate reversal of the scheme that "contractualises" Army jobs. Trains and other public property remained the target of the protesters with over 340 trains getting affected on the day due to protests.

One protester was killed and 13 others were injured when police opened fire to quell a violent mob at the Secunderabad railway station on Friday. About 1,000 Army recruitment job aspirants entered the platforms in the morning and started damaging railway property. The gathering was apparently mobilised using four WhatsApp groups created by these job aspirants. The vast majority of these protesters hailed from north Telangana and some from south Telangana. They said they had appeared for the physical and medical tests and were waiting for the written exam which was postponed on account of the pandemic.

Collateral damage: Fire-fighting efforts on after a train was set afire in Secunderabad on Friday. • NAGARA GOPAL

BJP office set on fire

Bihar remained the eye of the storm of protests. Protesting aspirants attacked Bihar BJP chief Sanjay Jaiswal's residence and business establishments in his hometown Bettiah and set the BJP office in Madhepura on fire. They also vandalised the house of Deputy Chief Minister Renu Devi in Bettiah. Over half-a-dozen trains and several vehicles were burnt down.

Protests erupted in several districts of West Bengal too. Though there was no report of any violence, rail and vehicular movement was disrupted at various places.

In Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh, hundreds men demonstrated at the Khareshwar temple crossing.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

EDITORIAL ▸ PAGE 10

SMOKE AND SCREAMS ▸ PAGE 9

Waiver shows we care for youth: Rajnath

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the one-time waiver, increasing the upper age limit of recruitment from 21 years to 23 for the first cycle of the Agnipath scheme, indicates that "the government cares for our youth." ▸ PAGE 13

Cong. seeks immediate rollback

The Congress on Friday demanded immediate rollback of the Agnipath scheme and said it was neither in the country's interest nor security. The government should convene either a special session of Parliament or an all-party meeting to discuss the issue and build consensus. ▸ PAGE 13

Plea for IP rights waiver for COVID-19 jabs hits a wall

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

At the close of protracted discussions in Geneva on Friday, India failed to convince other World Trade Organization (WTO) members to waive intellectual property rights governing the manufacture and export of COVID-19 vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics. Doing so would have eased production and export from India to countries that lacked such capacity.

The final text of the agreement only eases access to the making and export of COVID-19 vaccines. Member-countries would within six months decide if similar concessions can be extended to diagnostics and therapeutics.

"The inability to agree to a real pandemic intellectual property waiver at WTO is a devastating global failure for people the world over," said Christos Christou, international president of the Medicins Sans Frontieres (MSF).

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

BDA gardener among 21 public servants raided by ACB

Searches were conducted in 14 districts of the State

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) unearthed three palatial houses at Doddakallasandra, J.P. Nagar 6th Phase, and K. S. Layout, five sites in Bengaluru, and multiple parcels of commercial land worth several crores owned by Shivalingaiah, a gardener with the BDA. He is at present posted as an assistant to AEE, BDA, Banashankari.

The ACB police found cash and jewellery in a raid on properties belonging to Harish, Asst. Engineer of Minor Irrigation Department, in Udupi on Friday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

He was among the 21 public servants working with various departments across the State, raided by the ACB in a mega operation on 80 premises linked to them on Friday. In all, 555 officers and staffers of ACB were involved in the raids. Raids were conducted in 14 districts and included officials working in the Public Works Department, Major and Minor Irrigation departments, Transport Department, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj departments and BDA, among others. In probably a first, residences of two retired officials were also raided. The ACB found ₹5 lakh cash hidden in the bathroom of the house of Bheemarao Yashwanth Pawar, Chief Engineer, PWD, in Belagavi.

The ACB has been tight-lipped on the recoveries made from the residences of these officials. Based on a preliminary inquiry report, the ACB filed disproportionate assets cases against all the 21 officials and raided them, sources said.

Textbook row: Govt. to give 'correction booklets'

People have a week to raise objections

JAYANTH R.
BENGALURU

With the controversy about the content of revised school textbooks in Karnataka refusing to die down, the Primary and Secondary Education Department has now decided to bring out "correction booklets" and distribute them along with the textbooks to students.

This has become inevitable because the government, following strong protests, agreed to make some corrections after the process of printing and distribution of textbooks had already begun.

While the government has already agreed to change portions of the content related to Basaveshwara and B.R. Ambedkar, it is likely to make more changes based on suggestions.

In an exclusive interview with *The Hindu*, B.C. Nagesh, Primary and Secondary Education Minister, said that the government had an open mind about further changes to the textbooks revised by the Rohith Chakrathirtha-led committee. Mr. Nagesh said that soft copies of all textbooks were in the public domain and people could raise objections within the next one week.

However, he insisted that the the textbook row was a "Congress-fabricated drama." "The BJP never did any politics when the Baragur Ramachandrappa-headed textbook revision committee revised the textbooks. Now, the Congress and so called intellectuals are politicising the textbook issue," he added.

INTERVIEW ▸ PAGE 4

Xi to host BRICS summit; Modi to attend

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Chinese President Xi Jinping will host a virtual summit of the leaders of the BRICS countries on June 23, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Friday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will join Russian President Vladimir Putin as well as Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro and South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa in the virtual meet next week, which will mark the first summit of the leaders following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Mr. Xi and Mr. Putin on Wednesday held a second phone conversation since the invasion, with Beijing saying it would support Russia's sovereignty and security. Mr. Xi will also host a BRICS Business Forum on June 22 and a dialogue on global development on June 24 to be attended by leaders from BRICS and other developing countries, the Foreign Ministry in Beijing said.

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II PU exam results today

KARNATAKA BUREAU
BENGALURU

Results of the II PU examination will be announced on Saturday. The exam was held from April 22 to May 18.

Primary and Secondary Education Minister B.C. Nagesh will announce the results around 11.30 a.m. at the Department of Pre-University Education (DPUE) office at Malleswaram here.

The DPUE will send the results to students on their registered mobile numbers. Results will also be available on https://pue.karnataka.gov.in as well as www.karresults.nic.in. Around 6.83 lakh students had registered for the II PU exam in 2022.

The II PU exam this year was held amidst a row on whether students can be allowed to enter classrooms wearing hijab (headscarf).

China foils bid to designate LeT deputy chief a terrorist

India slams the move, accuses Beijing of double standards

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

India slammed China for blocking a proposal to list Pakistani terror convict and Lashkar-e-Taiba/ Jamaat-ud-Dawa (LeT/JuD) deputy chief Abdul Rahman Makki as a UN Security Council-designated terrorist.

Calling the decision by China to place a "technical hold" on the listing requested by the United States and India this month "regrettable" and "extremely unfortunate", India said that China's actions ran counter to its claims of combating terrorism. It added that evidence against Makki was "overwhelming".

Abdul Rahman Makki. • @ANI

"China should reflect on its response that signals double standards on combating terrorism. Protecting well-known terrorists from sanctioning in this manner will only undermine its credibility and risk exposing even itself more to the growing threat of terrorism," government sources said, pointing to a similar blocking by China of the UNSC terror designation proposal against Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar for several years, until Beijing agreed to his designation in 2019.

Defending its actions on Friday, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs insisted that it "opposes terrorism in all its manifestation".

"The actions we take in the 1267 Committee in the UNSC always abide by relevant procedures and rules. China will continue to carry out work in a constructive and responsible attitude," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

U.K. clears Assange's extradition

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Britain on Friday approved a U.S. government request to extradite WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to face trial over the publication of secret military files, prompting outrage from his supporters.

Home Secretary Priti Patel's Interior Ministry said Mr. Assange had 14 days to appeal the decision.

WikiLeaks called Ms. Patel's decision a "dark day for press freedom and for British democracy" and vowed to pursue the appeal to the High Court".

REPORT ▸ PAGE 15

GETTY IMAGES

Root carves his niche in the pantheon after an immortal 18 months

The Englishman's purple patch since January 2021 has lifted his standing among Test cricket's batting greats. He is now more than 2,000 runs clear of the other members of the Fab Four and on par with Tendulkar's tally at the same age

HOT STREAK | Root has scored 2,371 runs and 10 hundreds in the last 18 months. This has helped him open up a significant lead in runs over other members of the Fab Four, who have played fewer Tests; but while he averages more than Kohli currently, he is still behind Smith and Williamson

THE FAB FOUR ON JANUARY 1, 2021

	Tests	Innings	Runs	Ave	100s	50s
Steve Smith	75	135	7,237	61.33	26	29
Kane Williamson	82	143	6,877	52.90	23	32
Virat Kohli	87	147	7,318	53.41	27	23
Joe Root	**97**	**177**	**7,823**	**47.99**	**17**	**49**

THE FAB FOUR ON JUNE 15, 2022

	Tests	Innings	Runs	Ave	100s	50s
Steve Smith	85	151	8,010	59.77	27	36
Kane Williamson	87	152	7,289	52.81	24	33
Virat Kohli	101	171	8,043	49.95	27	28
Joe Root	**119**	**220**	**10,194**	**49.97**	**27**	**53**

ON COURSE? | Root got to 10,000 Test runs at 31, much like Tendulkar did. But the Indian did it in fewer innings with a higher average. Tendulkar played another 78 Tests after that point, scoring 5,844 runs, which gives a sense of the size of the task Root faces

TENDULKAR VS. ROOT AFTER THE TEST DURING WHICH THEY PASSED THE 10,000 MARK

	Age	Tests	Innings	Runs	Ave	100s
Sachin Tendulkar	31	122	196	10,077	57.58	34
Joe Root	**31**	**118**	**218**	**10,015**	**49.57**	**26**

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR

Batters are forever judged against two elusive benchmarks. One is a staggering numerical yardstick: 99.94, Don Bradman's Test average. This is divine consistency marred by the mortal blemish of a meagre .06 percentage points. The other is a mystical aura that combines swagger, the disdainful emasculation of chewing gum and those rip-roaring shots deflating most bowlers, the kind that Vivian Richards exuded all through his career.

The first yardstick is like the horizon, far and staying out of reach. The second gifts shock and awe in addition to a pathos-infused nostalgia about a past when men from the Caribbean ruled the cricketing world. Bradman's numbers and Richards' halo can never be replicated and all that the other batting greats could do was to carve their own niche through their respective statistics – runs scored, centuries etched and longevity at the crease. In that distinct space, Sachin Tendulkar reigns supreme: 200 Tests, 15,921 runs, 53.78 average and 51 hundreds. We are not even getting towards his ODI yield which is equally staggering.

At different points in the last decade, a few names were whispered as possible challengers to Mount Tendulkar. But most wilted in that final stretch, suddenly conscious about their age, waning reflexes, sore limbs and a mind that said it was time for the rocking chair. There was a time when South African Graeme Smith, especially during his prolific start, was seen as one of those who might chase down the Mumbaikar.

Incidentally during those Smith-ruling-the-charts days, Tendulkar was in Bangalore as part of an Indian training camp. A television reporter, once the cameras and microphones were turned off, walked beside the maestro and picked his brains on Smith. Tendulkar appreciated the South African's dream-run and then said: "We need to see how he does in the next few seasons and then we can judge. He is a good batsman but we need to watch how he performs in the coming seasons." This wasn't a man speaking from envy, this was a legend talking from experience, acutely aware of the cyclical nature of form and conscious about the surprising way injuries could crop up in a sportsperson's life.

Challengers fade

Smith eventually finished with 9,265 while Tendulkar's immediate contemporaries like Ricky Ponting, Jacques Kallis and Rahul Dravid ended their act after crossing 13,000 runs. In the subsequent generation, Alastair Cook, based on his initial consistency and with fewer summers in his rear-view mirror, was deemed a challenger. But at 33 and with 12,472 Test runs, he bid adieu and is placed fifth in the all-time list.

Now another Englishman has nudged fans to ask that question – could Mount Tendulkar be scaled? Root, in the middle of a Bradmanesque run, has suddenly steered clear of his other three middle-order challengers in the sweepstakes. His nimble ways at times remain unnoticed like a pickpocket hoodwinking passengers in a heaving bus. It is a contrast to the muscular look-at-me-ye-brethren aggro and angst that Virat Kohli exudes. Equally Root remains different from Kane Williamson's sense of the philosopher – who can forget his 'it is what it is' quip? And at the other end of the spectrum is Steve Smith whose batting style blends a maverick's exaggeration with cascading runs.

The four present a varied combo, like the bouquet of choices that the famous 1980s gang of Richards, Allan Border, Javed Miandad, David Gower and Dilip Vengsarkar offered through their middle-order heroics. At one point in the evolution of batting, Mount 10K was seen as this impossible peak until Sunil Gavaskar late-cut Ijaz Fakih at a raucous old Motera Stadium at Ahmedabad in 1987.

Sportstar ran out of its commemorative copies and had to go for a reprint. Gavaskar eventually got company and with the latest entrant Root, there are 14 batters occupying this exclusive club.

Batter-skipper dynamic

In his last 22 Tests, starting with the 228 against Sri Lanka at Galle during January 2021, Root the batter has largely held fort, while the skipper waned, especially after an Ashes defeat Down Under and another loss in the West Indies. As a willow-wielder there wasn't much to fault him about as he vacillated among the 30s, 50s and the big hundreds with two double tons to boot. Overall in these 22 games, he struck 10 tons and specifically in the last 10 innings, he crossed the three-figure mark on four occasions. This wasn't a case of a captain going down with the bat tucked behind. It was more about a skipper's shelf-life darting up with a terse reminder while the batter within him had no cobwebs to deal with.

And while his relatively more acclaimed rivals like Kohli (8,043 runs), Smith (8,010) and Williamson (7,289) trail behind him, Root is now at 10,194, riding on a fine stint against the visiting Black Caps. Root may look relatively leaner than the other three but in those wiry limbs there is boundless energy and a battle-ready heart is always ticking. Even during those early days that involved a nasty pub brawl with David Warner, Root showed that he could stand up and counter. As a batter, he has scored on all surfaces across countries, adept against pace and spin. Most importantly like he showed recently against New Zealand at Lord's, he can handle the pressure of a tricky fourth innings chase. The result was a classy unbeaten 115 that helped new skipper Ben Stokes start on a winning note.

Shades of great

Cook said that Root was the 'most complete English batter' he has seen while Kevin Pietersen could play an incredible innings. Those remarks also hinted at the different strains of English batting. Be it Geoff Boycott's more famous obduracy that spawned varied followers, ranging from the acclaimed Cook to the forgotten Chris Tavare. Or the muscular style that marked Graham Gooch, Allan Lamb and Robin Smith. The constant poetry and frustration associated with the stylish Gower. Or the game-altering dynamics inherent in Pietersen, Stokes and earlier Ian Botham. England has seen diverse batters over the decades and to this mix steps in Root, with his unique traits, ticking the scoreboard over and not averse to a cheeky remark, much akin to Miandad. He can drop anchor and Boycott once said Root reminds him of himself. Equally Root could reverse scoop a six as the New Zealand bowlers learnt.

The right-hander did himself a good turn by relinquishing captaincy. Age is on his side but form, as earlier mentioned, is cyclical and cricket loves its cliched law of averages. England is more invested in Tests and he will get more avenues to score but Ashes jousts can be a drain when fortune looks the other way. Root is aware of this but for now he appears the most probable challenger to Tendulkar's Test runs.

As comebacks go, this is as good as it gets and the hackneyed 'England strikes roots' might become a recurring headline. For now he is in the form of his life and like veteran scribe R. Mohan wrote about Vengsarkar's scorching runs in the mid-1980s, Root can now even score with a toothbrush! At 31 he is on par with what Tendulkar was at the same age in the Test arena. As for what lies ahead, it all depends on his form, fitness and above all the desire to stay the course, a trait that defined the great Tendulkar.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Daniil Medvedev	26	7,950	22
2	Alexander Zverev	25	7,075	20
3	Novak Djokovic	35	6,770	12
4	Rafael Nadal	36	6,525	10
5	Casper Ruud	23	5,050	27
6	Stefanos Tsitsipas	23	4,945	24
7	Carlos Alcaraz	19	4,893	20
8	Andrey Rublev	24	4,125	26
9	Felix Auger-Aliassime	21	3,895	26
10	Matteo Berrettini	26	3,570	18
11	Cameron Norrie	26	3,455	27
12	Hubert Hurkacz	25	3,258	25
13	Jannik Sinner	20	3,185	28
14	Taylor Fritz	24	2,920	27
15	Denis Shapovalov	23	2,473	22

Top Indians ▶

Ramkumar Ramanathan
Rank 166 ▲ 9 spots

Prajnesh Gunneswaran
Rank 278 ▲ 2 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	PLAYER	AGE	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Iga Swiatek	21	8,631	17
2	Anett Kontaveit	26	4,511	21
3	Paula Badosa	24	4,245	25
4	Ons Jabeur	27	4,150	20
5	Aryna Sabalenka	24	4,145	21
6	Maria Sakkari	26	4,075	19
7	Karolina Pliskova	30	3,678	17
8	Jessica Pegula	28	3,255	19
9	Danielle Collins	28	3,255	19
10	Garbine Muguruza	28	3,060	19
11	Emma Raducanu	19	2,975	24
12	Daria Kasatkina	25	2,765	21
13	Coco Gauff	18	2,756	17
14	Barbora Krejcikova	26	2,642	17
15	Leylah Fernandez	19	2,605	23

Top Indians ▶

Ankita Raina
Rank 374 ▼ 11 spots

Karman Thandi
Rank 492 ▲ 25 spots

F1 Drivers' standings

#	DRIVER	TEAM	POINTS	WINS
1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull Racing	150	5
2	Sergio Perez	Red Bull Racing	129	1
3	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	116	2
4	George Russell	Mercedes	99	0
5	Carlos Sainz	Ferrari	83	0
6	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	62	0
7	Lando Norris	McLaren	50	0
8	Valtteri Bottas	Alfa Romeo	40	0
9	Esteban Ocon	Alpine	31	0
10	Pierre Gasly	AlphaTauri	16	0
11	Fernando Alonso	Alpine	16	0
12	Kevin Magnussen	Haas	15	0
13	Daniel Ricciardo	McLaren	15	0
14	Sebastian Vettel	Aston Martin	13	0
15	Yuki Tsunoda	AlphaTauri	11	0
16	Alex Albon	Williams	3	0
17	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin	2	0
18	Zhou Guanyu	Alfa Romeo	1	0
19	Mick Schumacher	Haas	0	0
20	Nico Hulkenberg	Aston Martin	0	0
21	Nicholas Latifi	Williams	0	0

Max Verstappen

Sergio Perez

F1 Constructors' standings

POS	TEAM	POINTS	WINS	PODIUMS
1	Red Bull	279	6	11
2	Ferrari	199	2	8
3	Mercedes	161	0	4
4	McLaren	65	0	1
5	Alpine	47	0	0
6	Alfa Romeo	41	0	0
7	AlphaTauri	27	0	0
8	Haas	15	0	0
9	Aston Martin	15	0	0
10	Williams	3	0	0

Badminton Men's ranking

#	PLAYER	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Viktor Axelsen	119,806	39
2	Kento Momota	112,554	27
3	Anders Antonsen	98,300	37
4	Chou Tien Chen	93,776	38
5	Lee Zii Jia	90,378	42
6	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting	87,879	36
7	Chen Long	84,400	18
8	Jonatan Christie	82,812	36
9	Loh Kean Yew	75,934	32
10	Lakshya Sen	75,874	40
11	K. Srikanth	72,481	43
12	Ng Ka Long Angus	70,257	35
13	Rasmus Gemke	69,151	37
14	Kanta Tsuneyama	67,848	32
15	Wang Tzu Wei	65,676	44

Top Indians ▶

Lakshya Sen
Rank 10

K. Srikanth
Rank 11

Badminton Women's ranking

#	PLAYER	POINTS	EVENTS
1	Akane Yamaguchi	111,963	36
2	Tai Tzu Ying	109,845	23
3	An Se Young	103,603	44
4	Chen Yu Fei	103,456	27
5	Carolina Marin	100,380	22
6	Nozomi Okuhara	96,560	25
7	P.V. Sindhu	94,018	41
8	Ratchanok Intanon	87,549	37
9	He Bing Jiao	81,664	30
10	Pornpawee Chochuwong	78,265	42
11	Busanan Ongbamrungphan	70,294	48
12	Michelle Li	70,130	39
13	Sayaka Takahashi	66,573	34
14	Wang Zhi Yi	64,678	27
15	Mia Blichfeldt	63,819	29

Top Indians ▶

P.V. Sindhu
Rank 7

Saina Nehwal
Rank 24

Test Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Joe Root	897	917
2	Marnus Labuschagne	892	936
3	Steve Smith	845	947
4	Babar Azam	815	815
5	Kane Williamson	798	919
6	Dimuth Karunaratne	772	781
7	Usman Khawaja	757	757
8	Rohit Sharma	754	813
9	Travis Head	744	773
10	Virat Kohli	742	937

Test Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Pat Cummins	901	914
2	Ravichandran Ashwin	850	904
3	Jasprit Bumrah	830	835
4	Shaheen Afridi	827	827
5	Kagiso Rabada	818	902
6	Kyle Jamieson	796	836
7	James Anderson	795	903
8	Neil Wagner	762	859
9	Trent Boult	753	825
10	Josh Hazlewood	752	863

ODI Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Babar Azam	892	898
2	Imam-ul-Haq	815	815
3	Virat Kohli	811	911
4	Rohit Sharma	791	885
5	Quinton de Kock	789	813
6	Ross Taylor	775	841
7	R. van der Dussen	769	776
8	Jonny Bairstow	746	796
9	Aaron Finch	745	798
10	David Warner	737	880

ODI Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Trent Boult	726	770
2	Josh Hazlewood	691	733
3	Matt Henry	683	691
4	Shaheen Afridi	681	688
5	Jasprit Bumrah	679	841
6	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	676	712
7	Chris Woakes	676	711
8	Mehedi Hasan	661	725
9	Mohammad Nabi	657	657
10	Shakib Al Hasan	657	717

T20I Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Babar Azam	818	896
2	Mohammad Rizwan	794	798
3	Aiden Markram	772	796
4	Dawid Malan	728	915
5	Aaron Finch	716	900
6	Devon Conway	703	784
7	Ishan Kishan	689	689
8	Rassie van der Dussen	673	780
9	Pathum Nissanka	661	689
10	Martin Guptill	658	793

T20I Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Josh Hazlewood	792	806
2	Adil Rashid	746	746
3	Tabraiz Shamsi	733	821
4	Rashid Khan	709	816
5	Adam Zampa	698	743
6	Anrich Nortje	672	695
7	Wanindu Hasaranga	668	797
8	Maheesh Theekshana	647	647
9	Ashton Agar	640	717
10	Nasum Ahmed	637	637

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Nonconformist Raducanu undeterred by growing pains

The 19-year-old Briton has struggled since shocking the world at the US Open last year. Dealing with injuries and navigating the tour without a full-time coach, her lead-up to Wimbledon has been less than ideal. But her belief in her 'crazy' decision-making is unshaken

REUTERS
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Emma Raducanu has packed more into one year than many tennis players do over a career.

The teenager, fresh from completing her end-of-school exams, made her senior debut 12 months ago in the first round of last year's Nottingham Open, where she was beaten in straight sets by fellow Briton Harriet Dart.

After catching the eye during a run to the fourth round at Wimbledon – her maiden appearance in a Major ended after she suffered breathing difficulties and was forced to retire – she became a global star by winning the US Open as a qualifier, a 100-1 long-shot, in September.

That stunning triumph – she was Britain's first female Grand Slam champion since Virginia Wade (1977) and the youngest woman (18) since Maria Sharapova (2004) to lift Major silverware – opened all sorts of doors. She was asked to send Britain's Queen Elizabeth II a message for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and invited to the highly sought-after Met Gala in New York.

But Raducanu also struggled with bothersome fitness issues, endured a bout of Covid, changed coaches thrice before deciding to go solo – a move that raised eyebrows and sparked think-pieces – and dealt with the weight of expectations that sits on the shoulders of a 19-year-old whose every move is scrutinised.

"To come back 12 months later, full circle, knowing what happened is pretty surreal," she said ahead of this year's Nottingham Open. "It is where it started over for me and I am proud of what I have achieved over the last 12 months. It signifies the start of a journey for me."

Unfortunately for Raducanu, her already crammed year got busier – and not pleasantly busier. A "freak" side strain forced her out of her opening match and the Birmingham event, threatening her participation at Wimbledon, set to run from June 27 to July 10. This left her with an anxious period of rehab just to return to the grass-court swing; thoughts of mounting a title challenge at her home Grand Slam will have to wait.

While a scan appeared to allay fears of Raducanu missing Wimbledon altogether, it didn't quieten the murmurs over her worrying injury record.

She has suffered a string of fitness issues in her opening season: hip and back complaints coupled with blisters during the past few months. She has had to retire from matches three times since her fairytale run from the qualifying rounds to US Open glory.

> **If you strip away the fact she was catapulted into this amazing success following her US Open triumph, she is no different to any other young player in the sense that her body needs time to fill out, become more robust and resilient. It's a process that simply doesn't happen overnight**
>
> JUDY MURRAY
> Tennis coach

Obstacles to progress

The injuries are especially frustrating for a player with the talent to win multiple Majors. Not only do they directly affect her results – they have played a part in her not winning more than two matches at a tournament since her New York triumph – but they also hinder her development.

The longer she spends in recovery, the less time she has on the training courts to add to her game. And if she is fighting to regain basic fitness, it's much tougher to make significant progress in the gym and improve her physical floor, like she did after Wimbledon last year with a gruelling weight-training programme that paid off at the US Open.

"It is just a shame. I am obviously disappointed and it is really bad luck," Raducanu said of her latest injury. "That's out of my control, but right now all I can focus on is what I am doing and I think I am doing a lot of good work. I just need to trust that it will come good."

Judy Murray, a tennis coach and mother of three-time Grand Slam winner Andy, believes that Raducanu needs time to mature physically and should hire experts to help her.

"What's becoming increasingly clear is that Raducanu's body needs time to mature," Judy wrote in a column for *The Telegraph*. "If you strip away the fact she was catapulted into this amazing success following her US Open triumph, she is no different to any other young player in the sense that her body needs time to fill out, become more robust and resilient.

"It's a process that simply doesn't happen overnight, especially when the physical demands on her body are at an all-time high," Judy said, adding that her son Andy suffered from cramping while moving up from the junior circuit to the ATP.

Judy also urged Raducanu to make more use of female expertise in taking care of her health, highlighting the example of Chinese teenager Zheng Qinwen who opened up about how menstrual cramps derailed her run at the French Open.

"How many of today's top female players, I wonder, are harnessing the peaks and troughs of their cycle and tailoring it to their training and performance?" Judy wrote. "How many could feel more empowered by investing in a women's health physio or specialist and making their entourage that bit more female-centric?

"... the menstrual cycle and its impact on athletic performance is an area of sports science that has been woefully neglected and only now are we beginning to understand its impact on an athlete, both psychologically and physically."

It will be interesting to see whether Judy's suggestion resonates with Raducanu, whose approach to building a team of coaching and support staff is anything but conventional.

Raducanu switched coaches from Nigel Sears, who once coached Ana Ivanovic, to former British Davis Cupper Andrew Richardson after last year's Wimbledon. Richardson's contract was not renewed after the US Open victory, which surprised many. German coach Torben Beltz was hired in November and fired in April, and she has been without a full-time coach since.

She has, however, done a lot of technical work with the Lawn Tennis Association's senior performance advisor Louis Cayer, who is reportedly well regarded by the Raducanu camp.

While some experts have been critical of the constant churn of coaching staff, those close to her say Raducanu knows what she wants and desires new ideas and insight once she thinks she has hit her ceiling under a coach.

"That is definitely a journey [where] I'm learning on the way but it's what works for me as an individual," she told *WSJ* magazine. "It might not work for anyone else and people might look at me like I'm crazy but I trust my own decision-making and my own beliefs of what I think is right.

"I know that even though I'm quite young, I've got a lot of experience banked. And at the end of the day you're out there on your own."

Original thinker

This streak of independent, original thinking is reflected in some of her other interests, which include economics, ballet, go-karting, horseback riding, tap dancing, skiing, basketball and motorbikes.

But her unconventional approach, early success and fitness issues have caused some to wonder whether her undoubted natural talent will ever realise its full potential.

Chris Evert, who won 18 Grand Slam singles titles, felt Roland-Garros runner-up Coco Gauff was on a better path than Raducanu. "[Gauff does] everything in moderation... that's a healthier sort of environment," Evert said. "I mean Raducanu had an unbelievable US Open but I think she's been struggling ever since then and I think it's going to be a while if she wins another one but I think Coco is the best of that young group and she's been doing everything the correct way."

But given Raducanu's ability to surprise experts and her killer instinct when focused on court, the current uncertainty may only be temporary.

"I'm still 19 and I've already won a Grand Slam so I can take my time and put things in place because I know my motivation isn't any less," Raducanu said.

"I don't think anyone would say, 'I wish I didn't win a Grand Slam at 18' because that is what I set out to do – and I did that. That comes with a lot of challenges but managing, learning and growing through the adversities that I have faced – I would much rather have that."

> **I'm still 19 and I've already won a Grand Slam so I can take my time because I know my motivation isn't any less. I don't think anyone would say, 'I wish I didn't win a Grand Slam at 18' because that is what I set out to do. That comes with a lot of challenges but managing, learning and growing through the adversities that I have faced – I would much rather have that**
>
> RADUCANU

GETTY IMAGES

GAME THEORY

The best men on grass

With the grass-court season upon us, we take a look at male tennis players with the highest win rate on the surface. Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic are the only two active players in the top 20

DON BUDGE

BILL TILDEN

BOBBY RIGGS

Player	Win-loss	Win%	Titles	Wimbledon crowns
Don Budge	52-5	**91.2%**	5	2 (1937-38)
Bill Tilden	105-11	**90.5%**	10	3 (1920-21, 1930)
Bobby Riggs	34-4	**89.5%**	**3**	1 (1939)
Fred Perry	79-10	**88.8%**	7	3 (1934-36)
Rene Lacoste	63-8	**88.7%**	6	2 (1925, 1928)
Ellsworth Vines	31-4	**88.6%**	3	1 (1932)
Roger Federer	192-29	**86.9%**	19	8 (2003-07, 2009, 2012, 2017)
Laurence Doherty	32-5	**86.5%**	6	5 (1902-06)
Norman Brookes	32-5	**86.5%**	3	2 (1907, 1914)
Maurice McLoughlin	57-9	**86.4%**	2	0
John McEnroe	121-20	**85.8%**	8	3 (1981, 1983-84)
James Anderson	42-7	**85.7%**	3	0
Novak Djokovic	102-18	**85.0%**	7	6 (2011, 2014-15, 2018-19, 2021)
Jack Kramer	34-6	**85.0%**	3	1 (1947)
Rod Laver	95-17	**84.8%**	7	4 (1961-62, 1968-69)
Bill Johnston	67-12	**84.8%**	3	1 (1923)
Henri Cochet	72-13	**84.7%**	4	2 (1927, 1929)
Pete Sampras	101-20	**83.5%**	10	7 (1993-95, 1997-00)
Tony Wilding	30-6	**83.3%**	6	4 (1910-13)
Jimmy Connors	185-38	**83.0%**	9	2 (1974, 1982)

Five-time Wimbledon champion Bjorn Borg (81.8%) and three-time Wimbledon winner Boris Becker (82.3%) are just outside the top 20
SOURCE: ATP; STATS PRIOR TO 2022 GRASS SEASON

PICTURE THIS

MARCO KOST/GETTY IMAGES

Spikes and vibes

A passer-by photographs beach volleyball players against a dusk sky in Laguna Beach, California, in this picture.

California – Santa Monica, to be precise – is where the modern two-player game is recorded to have originated.

Although the roots of beach volleyball can be traced back to Hawaii's Waikiki Beach in the early 1900s, games involved at least six players per side until one day in 1930, when four members of the Santa Monica Athletic Club decided not to wait for the others to turn up.

The two-on-two variant spread to nearby beach clubs and its popularity, fuelled by how easy and inexpensive it was to organise, grew.

At one point in the 1960s, the Beatles, on tour in Los Angeles, tried their hand at the game. It isn't known how the iconic four-man band split teams or who won; just that they enjoyed themselves.

Another reason for beach volleyball's popularity – boosted by its inclusion in the 1996 Olympics – is the playing surface.

Although sand makes it more difficult for players to move around and jump, it's forgiving on the joints and reduces the likelihood of several injuries; it also guarantees players a soft landing.

PM's visit spurs roadworks in parts of city

BDA, BBMP, and BMRCL are working on a war footing to redo bad stretches in Kengeri-Kommaghatta

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Residents of Kengeri-Kommaghatta had been putting up with pothole-filled bad stretches of road for several months now. Appeals to redo the stretch fell on deaf ears. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kommaghatta, to lay foundation stone for the suburban rail project on Monday, has come as a blessing in disguise for the residents of the area.

Works being carried out on a footpath on Kengeri-Kommaghatta road; and (right) a newly laid road in front of BDA grounds at Kommaghatta in Bengaluru. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Multiple agencies – Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), and Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) – are working on a war footing to redo road stretches in the area.

The roadworks in the area have been so intense that several schools in the vicinity have sent out emails to parents saying there may be a delay in the pickup and drop of children due to ongoing roadworks in the area.

"The residents of the area had been running pillar to post to get these stretches fixed, but to no avail. Now that the Prime Minister is coming here, there is a sudden spurt of activity with hundreds of labourers working day and night everyday. We hope the common citizens who use the roads everyday are also given the same priority," said R. Sampath Kumar, a resident of Kengeri.

Not only are the bad stretches of roads being redone, agencies are putting up streetlights, installing roadside grills and painting pavements. While BDA has taken up asphalting of a 5.5 km stretch of road from Shrike Apartments to Kommaghatta, BMRCL has sped up redoing Mysuru Road from Jnananbharathi to Kengeri.

BMRCL and BBMP recently received flak over potholes on Mysuru Road. When quizzed on the sudden priority for the works, BDA Commissioner M.B. Rajesh Gowda maintained they were part of routine works taken up in Visvesvaraya Layout, Anjanapura and Banashankari VI Stage in preparation to hand them over to the civic body. Similar works are underway on International Airport Road where the Prime Minister will land in Bengaluru at Yelahanka Air Force Base and proceed further towards Kengeri. The stretch of road he will use has been asphalted, medians painted and new plants planted on the medians.

Thai women rescued

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Seven Thai women were rescued after the Central Crime Branch (CCB) police raided a spa in Sadashivanagar Police Station limits.

The police said that the rescued women were forced into prostitution. Police raided the spa based on a tip-off and those involved in the racket have been arrested, they said.

The police added that passport and visa documents of the Thai women have been submitted to the police station for further action.

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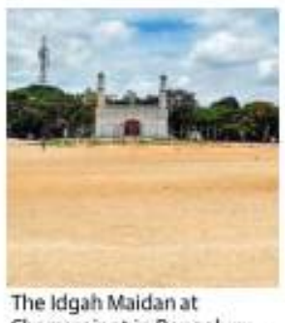
No nod for events at Idgah Maidan

Dispute on its ownership continues

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

As the impasse over the dispute of ownership of Idgah Maidan in Chamarajpet continues, no events will be allowed to be held on the grounds.



The Idgah Maidan at Chamarajpet in Bengaluru. • K. MURALI KUMAR

"Since there is a dispute on the ownership of the land and our claims are being contested by another government body, we are not in a position to give any official permission for any event on the ground," said Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath.

Hindutva organisations revoking a dispute that seemed settled till recently, have sought permission from the civic body to hold an event for International Yoga Day on June 21 and a week-long Independence Day event in August.

Meanwhile, responding to a notice served by the civic body to submit relevant documents to support their claim of ownership of the land, the Karnataka State Board of Auqaf has refused to submit documents. N.K. Muhammad Shafi Sa-adi, Chairman, Karnataka State Board of Auqaf, said while the Board would respond to the notice making the claim for the land, the Board, an autonomous body, need not submit relevant documents to the civic body which is a claimant for the same property. "If need be, we will submit relevant documents to either the State government or the court," he said.

However, Mr. Giri Nath said since the civic records showed khata in the name of BBMP since 1974 and the Karnataka State Board of Auqaf had made counter claims with relevant documents, they were only asking the Board to get a khata in their name.

"The Board has till date not cared to get a khata for the land in their name. BBMP khata only reflects the status of ownership record and doesn't create ownership. We are only requesting the Karnataka State Board of Auqaf to submit relevant documents before the civic body and get a khata in their name to resolve the dispute," he said.

Owners will have to register properties with e-Aasthi soon

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The city's civic body will ask property owners in East Zone to register their properties with the e-Aasthi software at Bangalore One Centres soon.

The new software being tested on a pilot basis in East Zone will make all khata operations, issue of new khata, amalgamation, division and all other related activities online. The new software has an exhaustive database with 42 datasets about the properties, while the old one had only eight.

"The new database will include geotagged photos of the property, photos of the owner among several other data points. These details need to be further spot verified by revenue officials. Hence, populating this database is a time consuming cumbersome process," said Deepak R.L., Special Commissioner (Revenue), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

- The new software is being tested on a pilot basis in East Zone

Crowdsource

The BBMP has now decided to crowdsource this database, asking property owners to register their properties at Bangalore One Centres for a fee, following which revenue officials would verify these details submitted on the ground. "Presently, issue of khata is taking a long time of two to three weeks. This will be reduced once the database is populated," he said.

Based on the success of e-Aasthi software in East Zone, the project will be expanded to South and West Zones, covering the entire core city. "Outer zones have been lagging in computerisation. First we need to speed up computerisation in these zones following which we can implement e-Aasthi," Dr. Deepak said.

"The goal of e-Aasthi is for citizens to be able to get their khata in their digilocker after they make an application. But that is a long way ahead and we will eventually get there," he added.

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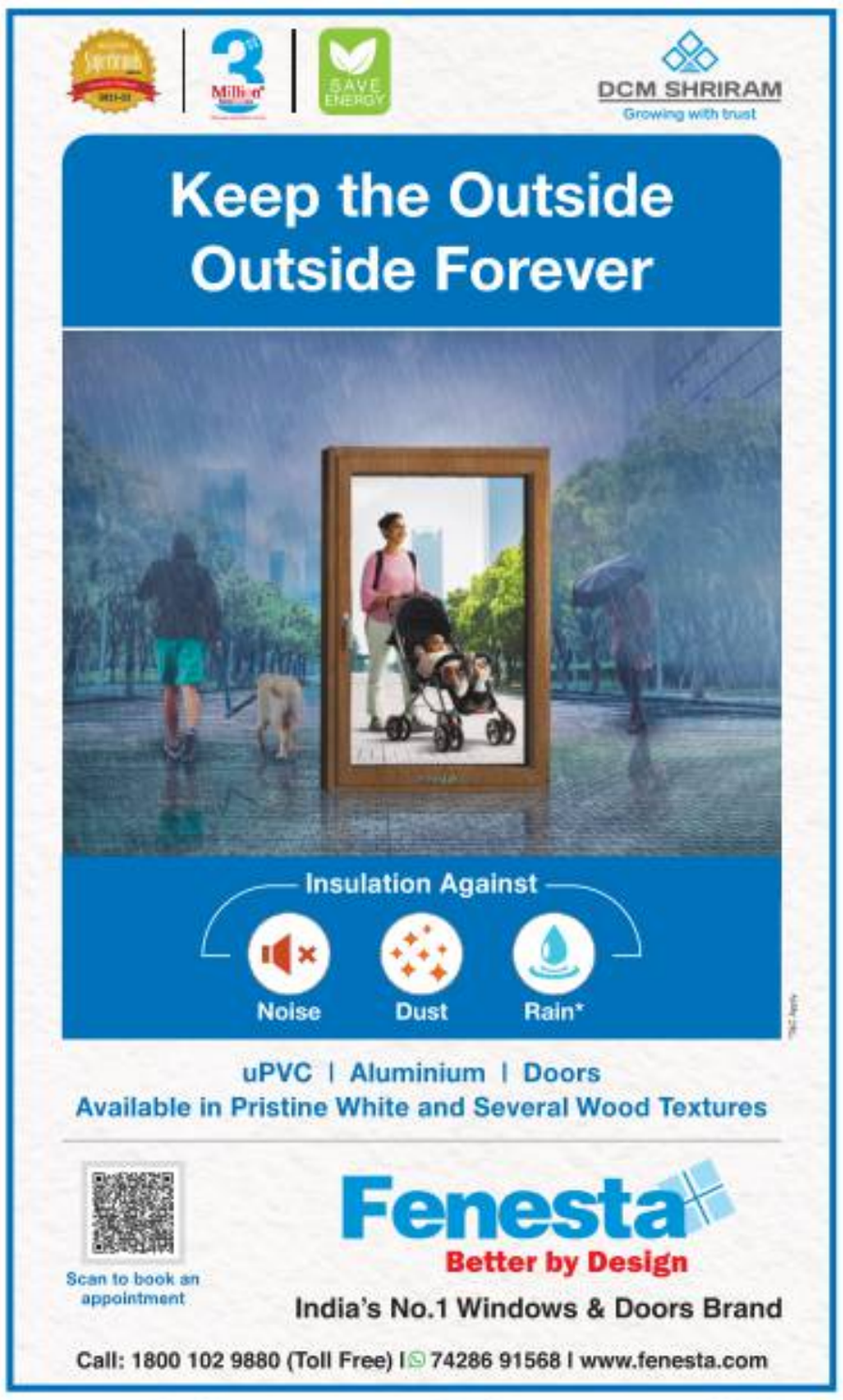

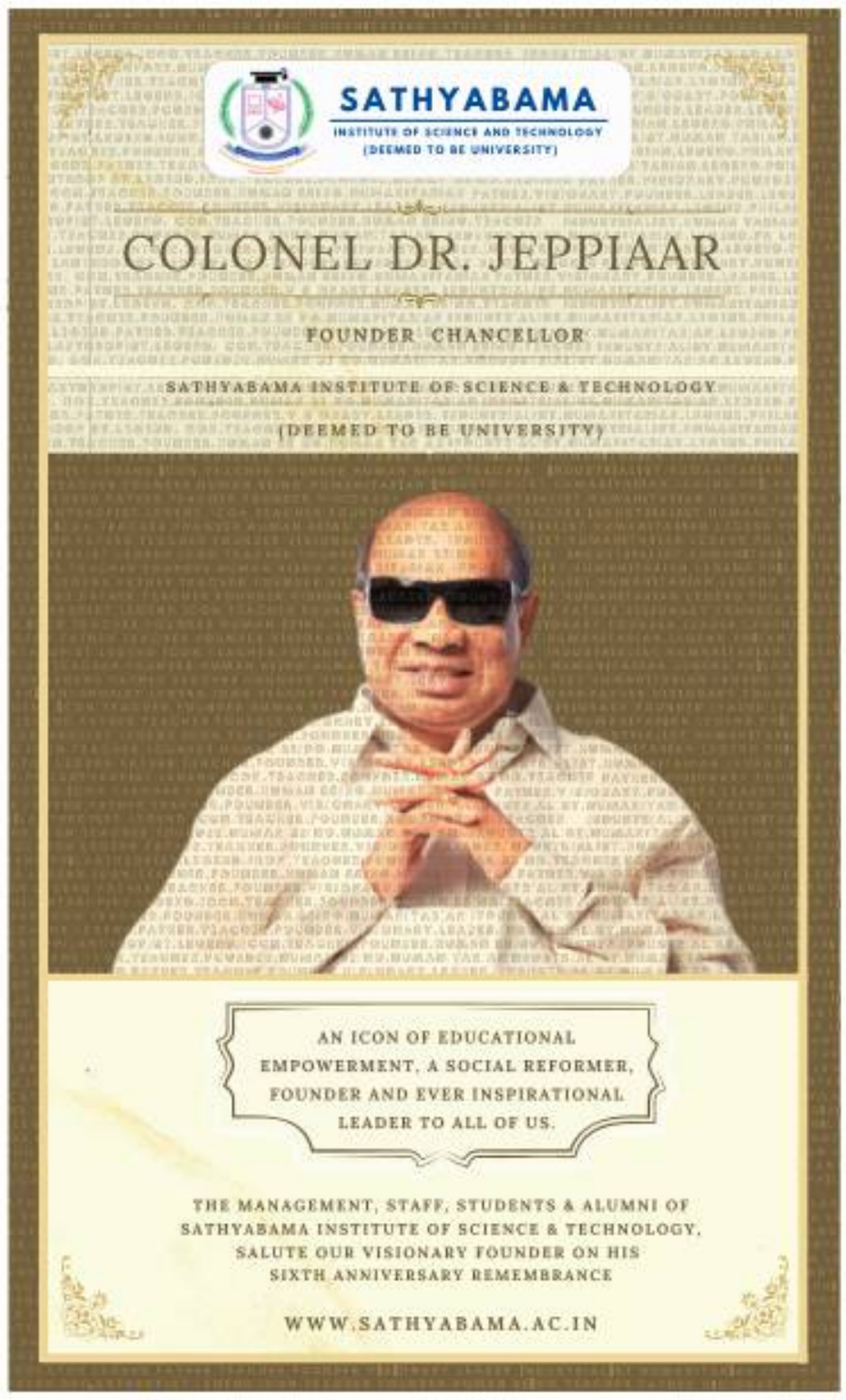
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INTERVIEW | B.C. NAGESH

'Any objectionable content in school textbooks will be suitably altered'

Education Minister says the row is a Congress-fabricated drama and the BJP never did any politics when the Baragur Ramachandrappa panel revised textbooks

JAYANTH R.
BENGALURU

Amidst the raging controversy over the addition and deletion of content in school textbooks in Karnataka, the government has announced that a 10-page "correction booklet" will be printed and distributed along with revised textbooks. These corrections will be made based on objections raised from various quarters.

In an exclusive interview with *The Hindu*, Primary and Secondary Education Minister B.C. Nagesh also said the government has an "open mind" and if there is any objectionable content, it will be "suitably altered." Excerpts:

For the last one month, there is a new revelation every day on some alleged errors or distortion. When will the government put in black-and-white what the changes were and why they were needed?

The textbook row is a Congress-fabricated drama. The BJP never did any politics when the Baragur Ramachandrappa-headed textbook revision committee revised textbooks. Now, the Congress and so called intellectuals are politicising the textbook issue.

The Baragur Ramachandrappa Committee has dropped Kuvempu's 'Ramanayanam Darshanam' text and added Periyar lesson.

Allegations against Rohith Chakrathirtha allegedly distorting the *naada geethe* is not today's. It happened in 2017, when Siddaramaiah was Chief Minister.

Lord Rama is the ideal personality of in Ramayana. Periyar's ideal person is Ravana. Who will be the ideal person for our children?

A lesson on Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan, who was a martyr and fought against terrorists, was also excluded and the committee included the lesson of 'Arya, Dravida,' which bifurcated the people of the nation. Lessons on Mysore Wadiyars, Vachanas of Basavanna, Devara Dasimayya, content related to the Bhagavad Gita and Hindu religion were also dropped. Nobody was questioned at that time.

There are some allegations of 'brahmanisation' of school textbooks. What's your opinion?

Bifurcating writers on the basis of caste is a painful thing. The Baragur Committee, incidentally, had put 19 Brahmin authors' lessons in schools textbooks. We did not do any exclusion or inclusion of the texts on the basis of writers' castes.

Now that books are in print and being distributed, how will you go about making changes? Will you reprint books or carry out changes in the already printed books and how?

More than 85% of the textbooks are already printed and 70% books are distributed to the schools. We put all the revised textbooks' soft copies in the public domain. We have not constituted any re-revision committee. There is a one-week window to submit the objections against the revised textbooks. On the basis of the objections, the Education Department will make some corrections and we will print the corrections in a separate booklet. The booklet may be around 5 to 10 pages and it will not cost much to the department. We will make some arrangements to reach the revised textbooks and additional booklets to the students before July end.

Will you put in place a methodology for textbook revision and qualification for chairman of the committee?

Selection of the chairman of the textbook revision committee is the decision of the State government. But, allegations against Rohith Chakrathirtha allegedly distorting the *naada geethe* (State anthem) is not today's. It happened in 2017, when Siddaramaiah was the Chief Minister. A case was booked and later a B Report filed. But there was no complaint or investigation on the original miscreant who had distorted the *naada geethe*.

What is the government's decision on withdrawal of the text by various writers?

The Department of Public Instruction has got 15 writers' letters seeking withdrawal of their texts from school textbooks. But strangely, there is any prose or poetry of only seven of them in the textbook. We got the writers' permission before the textbooks were printed. After the textbook revision, the government has got the approval and ordered for the printing of the books.

Now, the Kalika Chetarike programme is in progress in all schools to address the learning gap of the students. For the next three months, we will not be teaching from the revised textbooks. Later, we will take proper decision in this regard. In case any writer wants go to court, we will face it.

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Students from Afghanistan jittery as their courses near completion

Many of them want to continue studies in India as Taliban is back in power

TANIA ANNY
BENGALURU

When Shila Azimi left home to pursue higher studies in India, little did she know how drastically things would change back home in Afghanistan. Many Afghan students set out of the country with the belief that the Indian education system gives them great career prospects back home.

But in August 2021, as the Taliban came back to power in Afghanistan, their dreams began to fade. Today, as their courses are nearing completion, students from Afghanistan studying in India are in a fix. Many are looking at pursuing further studies in India.

"I came here for better education and had a plan to go back and start working with a media house, but all of sudden, everything changed. As a media student, now this is becoming more dangerous for me. Before I came to India, one of the journalists from where I used to work was kidnapped and released after two months. In this situation, I don't even have the courage to go back. For now, I have the opportunity to do my higher studies with the support of the ICCR, but after that what will happen, I don't know," said Azimi, a mass communication student who completed her postgraduation recently from Bangalore University. With no option left to go back to her home country, she started her Ph.D course under the ICCR scholarship in Mangaluru.

I came here for better education and had a plan to go back and start working with a media house. Before I came to India, one of the journalists from where I used to work was kidnapped and released after two months. I don't even have the courage to go back.
AZIMI
A mass communication student

Some students said coming to India was actually a "lifesaver".

An Afghan student, requesting anonymity for the sake of his family's safety back home, said, "I had a job there, and I was supposed to go back after my postgraduation and rejoin the same organisation. But now, the situation is not the same. We don't have any hope that if we go back after our degree, we will get a job. Many of my relatives lost their jobs. In this situation, my parents don't even want me to go back to Afghanistan. Now, instead of thinking about going back, I am searching for institutions for my higher studies that is safer for us."

For women students, the situation is all the more difficult. "When I came here, I had lots of hope and dreamt that I can learn new skill sets here and use them to develop my country's media sector. But all of a sudden, we have gone back by 20 years. For now, I cannot think of going back to my country if the situation is the same. My sister was working with a humanitarian organisation. She lost her job after the Taliban came to power. Even many of my colleagues who work in media organisations lost their jobs, especially women," said Faizia Ibrahimi, an Afghan student in Bengaluru.

With no hope of getting any job in her country, Ms. Ibrahimi is trying to manage some fully funded scholarships with a stipend for her higher studies, as currently, she is under academic scholarship.

Abdullah (name changed), a University of Mysore student, said, "When I left my country before the Taliban took over, I was eager to become a university professor. But in the current situation, there is no focus on higher education. That is why I am a bit worried. I am trying to get a Ph.D here, as the Indian government also provides some scholarships for us to continue our higher studies. But still, the question is what we will do after this. I may try my hand at business or try to find work in another country."

Aminullah came to India to know more about business administration as his family has its own business. Now, he is struggling to get another scholarship for higher studies. "This is sad, but we do not have any option to go back to my country at least as long the situation won't change. After finishing my degree, I may try to go to another country for survival and get a good job because here in India, we don't have any work opportunities," he said.

Cancellation of train between Hosur and city irks passengers

'It will cause inconvenience to working professionals'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Regular passengers of train number (06262), operated between Hosur and Bengaluru, demanded the South Western Railway to withdraw the notification on cancellation of the service with effect from Monday.

On Friday, at Heelalige station, a section of the passengers raised slogans against cancellation of the service. They said that the cancellation will cause inconvenience to working professionals and aged people.

Sanjeev Deshpande, who was a regular traveler using the train from Hebbal to Heelalige, said, "I regularly used the service. Like me, hundreds of the people working in Attibele, Jigani, Electronics City and other areas use the service. Companies are providing buses from Heelalige station to their workplace. To get from my workplace to my home, it would take three hours by car and cost anywhere around ₹700 per day. Whereas, a train journey costs ₹10. People who do not have vehicles and if they rely on BMTC buses, it would take more than four hours to reach their homes."

The South Western Railway has been urged to withdraw the notification. • FILE PHOTO

He added that the South Western Railway cancelled a local train service on the day Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation for the suburban rail project.

Narendranath, another commuter, said, "Cancellation of the morning and evening trains operated between Hosur and the city goes against the interest of the public. People working in Jigani, Bommasandra, Electronics City and other areas, are using Heelalige station to reach their workplace. There was an ecosystem to provide feeder service. We were also planning to request the BMTC to provide services for the benefit of the commuters. Meanwhile, the SWR took an abrupt decision to cancel the services. We demand the SWR to roll back the decision in the interest of regular travelers."

As per the recent notification by the South Western Railway, two trains (06261 /06262) were cancelled with effect from June 20.

Intermittent power supply

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

There will be intermittent power supply on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the areas serviced from Sir M.V. 220/66IIkV GIS EDC Station for taking up works related to condition monitoring of 220kV GIS module and servicing works related to Sir M.V. 220/66IIkV GIS (EDC) Station.

According to a press release, the areas affected are: Residency Road, Hondai RMU, Lavelle Road, Walton Road, Vittal Mallya Road, Church Street, Kasturba Road, M.G. Road, St. Marks Road, Queens Circle, Residency Road Cross.

Man involved in ATM thefts arrested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The police have arrested a man allegedly involved in ATM thefts. The arrest was made following a complaint from the agency, which replenishes money at an ATM machine on Sapthagiri College Road.

The police said the personnel working for the agency noticed a person illegally entering the ATM kiosk at night and checking the machine after closing the shutter. The CCTV of a shop opposite the ATM also recorded the movement of the person.

Recently, when the accused entered the ATM and tried to close the shutter, the police arrested him. The police have seized a gas cutter, oxygen cylinders and other tools used for the robbery. The accused is a native of Punjab and was part of an inter-State gang.

Gehlot visits Belur, Halebid

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot at Belur Channakeshava temple on Friday. • PRAKASH HASSAN

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot visited Belur and Halebid on Friday.

He offered prayers at Channakeshava Temple in Belur and Hoysaleshwara Temple in Halebid. Along with senior officers, he went around both the temples and appreciated the magnificent monuments of the Hoysala period. Aslam Sharief of the Tourism Department briefed the Governor about the historical importance of the temple and the special features of the Hoysala architecture. Belur MLA K.S. Lingesh and Deputy Commissioner R. Girish accompanied the Governor.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction)-I,North-Western Railway, Jodhpur through for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders (Open Tender - Two packet system), for the following work:- **SN 1. Tender No. :** JU/Const./T-19/2022-23/TF/Addl.Loop. **SN. 2. Name of the work with its location:** Construction of Platforms, Platform shelters, laying of BG track including Turn outs, Dead ends and other miscellaneous work in connection with providing additional loop lines at Palana, Alai, Chilo, Marwar Mathania and Kiroda stations of Jodhpur Division. **SN 3. Approx. cost of work:** Rs. 11,93,34,636.97, **SN 4. Earnest Money to be deposited:** Rs 7,46,700.00, **SN 5. Tender Closing date & time:** 15.07.2022 upto 15:00 hrs. **SN 6. Details of particular, where e-tender can be seen & filled up. www.ireps.gov.in, SN 7. Official email address:** dycecju@nwr.railnet.gov.in 418-AC/22
Follow us on NWRailways NWRailways

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

TENDER NOTICE NO. S/07/2022-23 Dated. 16-06-2022. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works. **SN.1. Tender No.** 37/22/0466A/OT/19/2022-23. **Brief Description:** Air brake hose coupling for Brake pipe. As per Drg. No. RDSO Drawing No: SK-73547, Alt-13. Mat. Specn:- as per Drawing. **Closing/Opening date: 30-06-2022. SN.2. Tender No.** 40/22/0519A/OT/20/2022-23. **Brief Description:** 12V, 70AH VRLA battery for LHB coaches in PP-CP/ABS container (9 modules of 12 v.) as per RDSO Specification No. RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/00009-2014 (Rev-2). **Closing/Opening date: 04-07-2022.** For details please visit website www.ireps.gov.in

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(Railway Offices Complex, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi – 110002)
FAX: +91-11-23370493. EMAIL ID: cmecofmowtech@gmail.com

WORK E-TENDER NOTICE NO. COFMOW/IIR/2022/WT-21

CORRIGENDUM-1 Date: 14.06.2022

Two packet E-tender is invited by Chief Mechanical Engineer, Central Organization for Modernization of Workshops (COFMOW), for and on behalf of the President of India for the execution of the following work:-

Name of Work: Integrated Solution for High Capacity Bogie Dis-Assembly & Assembly line with Industry 4.0 IoT enabled as per scope of work at New Bongaigaon (NBQS)/NFR, Dibrugarh (DBWS)/NFR, Ajmer (AII)/NWR, Lalaguda (LGDS)/SCR, Bhopal (BPL)/WCR & Assembly line for RCF/Kapurthala.

FIELD NAME	EXISTING VALUE	MODIFIED VALUE
Tender closing date,time	30.06.2022, 15:00	14.07.2022, 15:00

For details, this tender notice and tender document are also available on https://www.ireps.gov.in. **Sd/- Chief Mechanical Engineer/COFMOW**

"Serving Customers with a Smile."

Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran
Division Mangaon
e-Tender Notice No. 02 for 2022-2023
(II nd Call)

The Executive Engineer, Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran Division Mangaon invites e-Tender for the following work under Jal Jeevan Mission from Empannelled contractors in Category "B" by State Water and Sanitation Mission.

Sr.No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (in Rs. lakhs)
1	Group Tender of Lonere-Devoli R.R. Water Supply Scheme Tal.Mangaon, Dist Raigad & Neral R.R. Water Supply Scheme Tal. Karjat, Dist Raigad	4339.06

Scheme details are available from 20/06/2022 on website **www.mahatender.gov.in** for detailed information.

Date : 13/06/2022
sd/-
(V. K. Suryawanshi)
Executive Engineer
MJP Division Mangaon

DGIPR/2021/2022/1369

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the NOTICE of General Public, that **HEMA BAI B**, aged about 31 years D/o. Chethan Singh P., Plot No. 111, 10th Cross, Bhattarahalli Near Garden City College, Virgonagar Post, BANGALORE 560 049, is the full & absolute owner of the Site No. 103, Khatha No. 103/211 Property No. 211 of KITHIGANUR VILLAGE, Bangalore, which is mor efully described in the schedule below, having purchased the same from his previous Owner/Vendor **Nevil Sebastian** represented by his GPA Holder/L.R. Francis, under Sale Deed dated 13/06/2013 registered as Document No. KRI-1-02259/2013-14 of Book I Stored in C.D. No. KRID 752 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, K.R. Puram, Bangalore.

It is further notified to the General Public that HEMA BAI B had lost the earlier Original Sale Deed dated 11/04/1997 executed by Chikka Muniyappa & others represented by their GPA Holder/Bhanathi in favour of Nevil Sebastian registered as Document NO. 169/1997-98 of Book I **Volume No. 1368 at Pages 114 to 118** in the office of the Sub-Registrar, K.R. Puram, Bangalore. A Police complaint in this regard was lodged with Bangalore City Police, Bangalore vide Lost Report No. 0342688/2022 dated 11/06/2022. I, hereby request on behalf of HEMA BAI B that if, any person/s come across or find the same, he/she/they are requested to hand over the same to the below mentioned address & they will be compensated accordingly.

The General Public are hereby further cautioned that if anybody deals with the Schedule site with any person/s on the basis of the misplaced/lost document mentioned above, it is at their own risk & cost and such person/s will not derive any title over the Schedule Property and in such an event they have no claim of whatsoever nature against HEMA BAI B nor against the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of property bearing Site No. 103, Khatha No. 103/211 Property No. 211 situated at KITHIGANUR VILLAGE, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Measuring East to West 40 feet, North to South 30 feet, in all measuring 1200 square feet & bounded on

East by : Road; West by : Private Property; North by : Property belong to Vijayakumar & South by : Private Property.

Shri. G.N. HARISH, Advocates,
312, Ground Floor, 21st 'A' Cross,
VI Block, Jayanagar, BANGALORE - 560 082.
Bangalore Date : 16-06-2022

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19th June 2022 SHUBHRA RANJAN
Scan for Registration
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89/A, Siddeshwara arcade, Besides BBMP office, Chandra Layout. 60 feet Main Road Bengaluru, Karnataka 560040

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ANISHA** Ravikumar Gupta, W/O. Ankit Kakrania, R/O. C201, Mantri Sarovar Apts, HSR Lyt Sector 4, Blr-102, have changed name to Anisha Kakrania vide affdvt dtd 13/06/22

I **Jivin** Philipose Anish S/O. Anish Philipose R/o B007, Gopalan Millennium Habitat, Kundalahalli, Bengaluru, have changed my name to Jivin Philip Anish for all purposes.

BUSINESS OFFER

CHENNAI BASED 23 yr old well established popular profitably running Spoken English Institute for sale. Nine Course Materials, Customer Data, Good Will, Equipment furniture 20L neg. Ct: 9150472959.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-75)
O.S. No. 26525/2020

Between:
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road,
Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its Manager and power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Pramodh G. ...Plaintiff
V/s.
Mrs. M. Samreen ...Defendant
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

Mrs. M. Samreen
W/o. Mr. Hussain, Aged About 35 Years, Door No. 106, 2nd Floor, NTHF Layout, 1st Main, 5th Cross, R.T. Nagar Bangalore- 560 032.

Whereas, the above named plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 2,52,093.25/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Ninety Three and Paise Twenty Five Only)** apart from future interest of 18% p.a., in **O.S. No.26525/2020** and same is pending adjudication Before Addl., City Civil & Sessions Judge Court, **CCH75**, Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 25th Day of July, 2022 at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 25th day of May, 2022

By Order of Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayohall, BENGALURU-560001

FX & CO., ADVOCATES,
New No.8, OLD NO.11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, JUN. 18
RISE 05:54 SET 18:47
RISE 22:52 SET 09:46

SUNDAY, JUN. 19
RISE 05:54 SET 18:48
RISE 23:38 SET 10:45

MONDAY, JUN. 20
RISE 05:55 SET 18:48
RISE 00:00 SET 11:40

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	23
Mysuru	31	21
Bengaluru	31	20

Bengaluru Today
29°C A slight warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower is possible.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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A study on spread of COVID-19 during short conversations

Risk of infection higher when one acts as a passive listener

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

When a person sneezes or coughs, they can potentially transmit droplets carrying viruses like SARS-CoV-2 to others in their vicinity. Does talking to an infected person also carry an increased risk of infection? How do speech droplets or "aerosols" move in the air space between the people interacting?

As the emphasis on the importance of wearing masks returns amidst rising number of COVID-19 cases, a research team carried out computer simulations to analyse the movement of the speech aerosols.

The team included researchers from the Department of Aerospace Engineering, Indian Institute of Science (IISc.), along with collaborators from the Nordic Institute for Theoretical Physics (NORDITA) in Stockholm and the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS) in Bengaluru.

According to an IISc. release, the team visualised scenarios in which two mask-less people are standing two, four or six feet apart and talking to each other for about a minute, and then estimated the rate and extent of spread of the speech aerosols from one to another.

In the study, published in the journal *Flow*, their simulations showed that the risk of getting infected was higher when one person acted as a passive listener and did not engage in a two-way conversation. Factors like the height difference between the people talking and the quantity of aerosols released from their mouths also appear to play an important role in viral transmission.

"Speaking is a complex activity, and when people speak, they're not really conscious of whether this can constitute a means of virus transmission," Sourabh Diwan, Assistant Professor in the Department of Aerospace Engineering, and one of the corresponding authors, was quoted as saying. He added that in the early days of the pandemic, experts believed that the virus mostly spread symptomatically through coughing or sneezing, and soon it became clear that asymptomatic transmission also leads to the spread of COVID-19.

However, very few studies have looked at aerosol transport by speech as a possible mode of asymptomatic transmission, he said.

Analysis of speech flows

To analyse speech flows, the team modified a computer code they had originally developed to study the movement and behaviour of cumulus clouds that are usually seen on a sunny day, the release explained. The analysis carried out on speech flows incorporated the possibility of viral entry through the eyes and mouth in determining the risk of infection, as most previous studies had only considered the nose as the point of entry, it added.

"In the simulations, when the speakers were either of the same height, or of drastically different heights (one tall and another short), the risk of infection was found to be much lower than when the height difference was moderate – the variation looked like a bell curve," explained the release.

Suggestions

Based on their results, the team suggests that just turning their heads away by about nine degrees from each other while still maintaining eye contact can reduce the risk for the speakers considerably.

Moving forward, the team plans to focus on simulating differences in the loudness of the speakers' voices and the presence of ventilation sources in their vicinity to see what effect they can have on viral transmission, but add that whatever precautions we can take while we come back to normalcy in our daily interactions with other people would go a long way in minimising the spread of infection.

State reports 634 new cases, two deaths

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Friday saw 634 new infections taking the total number of cases to 39,59,458.

With this, the day's Test Positivity Rate (TPR) rose to 2.8% and the weekly TPR touched 2.7%.

Of the new cases, 610 have been reported from Bengaluru Urban alone.

With two deaths, the State's toll rose to 40,070. Besides, 42 deaths of patients due to non-COVID-19 reasons have also been recorded.

As many as 503 persons were discharged on Friday taking the total recoveries to 39,14,846. Active cases rose to 4,500.

As many as 22,586 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, including 16,000 RT-PCR tests. With this, the total number of tests rose to 6,67,09,449.

Focus on sewage surveillance to detect emerging variants

This will provide early warning on impending local surge of COVID-19

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

With some samples of sewage surveillance in Bengaluru having shown the presence of "possible" BA.4 and BA.5 sub-lineages of Omicron, there is an increased focus on it now. While top health officials in the State confirmed the presence of these variants in waste water samples, they said it is yet to be correlated through genome sequencing.

Samples are collected from sewage treatment plants and open drains at select sites in Bengaluru city for waste water surveillance. • FILE PHOTO

Sewage surveillance is known to help in early identification of any impending wave of COVID-19 and notifying the emergence of new variants of SARS-CoV 2, if any, to initiate local public health actions. Six agencies are involved in sewage surveillance in Karnataka for the last one year. Last month, the Infectious Disease Research Foundation (IDRF) was granted permission to take up sewage surveillance in select sites in Bengaluru city, Bengaluru international airport and Mangaluru airport.

Following a recommendation by the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the State Health Department on June 7 set up an eight-member sewage surveillance appraisal committee headed by the TAC chairman. The committee has been asked to submit bi-weekly reports to the TAC.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said areas with a high case load detected in sewage surveillance are being prioritised for COVID testing. "Waste water analysis is an early detection tool to assess the spread of new sub-lineages and variants in a hotspot area of increased positivity. Some samples have shown the presence of possible BA.4 and BA.5 sub-lineages of Omicron in the city. However, the final certification of such detections would be only after confirmation by Indian SARS-CoV -2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG)," the Commissioner told *The Hindu*.

TAC chairman M.K. Sudarshan said after the third wave, many people are not coming forward to get tested. Pointing out that the first SSAC meeting was held on June 11, he said the committee has representation of all the organisations involved in waste water surveillance. The IDRF is preparing to start sewage surveillance in the third week of June, he said.

C.N. Manjunath, member of the State's Clinical Experts Committee, said several studies have demonstrated that increase in SARS-CoV-2 RNA can be detected in environmental samples several days before detection of COVID-19 through clinical surveillance.

In Mahadevapura

Bhaskar Rajakumar, who is part of TAC and heads the COVID war room at BBMP, said sewage surveillance has shown a slight surge in positivity rate in Mahadevapura. "Waste water surveillance has shown a jump from 33% positivity rate in the last week of May to 75% in the first week of June. The current rise in number of cases in Mahadevapura is also indicating the same," he said.

Govt of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI
No: EE/PWD/DIV/KLB/TS3/Tender Notification/2022-23/1577 Dated: 13-06-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of Work : Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi Invites tender (KW-3 & KW-4) for 5054 Appendix-E, 5054 SCP & 8443 of total (08) works of Indent No: 152591, 152749, 152197, 152228, 152614, 152061, 152062 & 152063 tenders are called through e-procurement for the year 2022-23, 2) Estimated Cost: **Estimate cost Minimum 53.04Lakhs & Maximum 418.16 Lakhs.** 3) Eligibility of Contractor: "PWD, Registered Contractors: "Class-I Qualified to tender for works upto any amount, "Class-II Qualified to tender for works upto Rs. 5.00 Crores, "Class-III Qualified to tender for works upto Rs. 2.00 Crores", 4) Tender fees and EMD details: Application Fees as per e-procurement EMD **Minimum Rs. 1,10,000.00 & Maximum Rs. 6,27,000.00,** 5) Pre Bid Meeting: **27/06/2022 upto 11.00 Hrs.,** 6) Last date for queries: **29/06/2022 upto 17.30 Hrs,** 7) Last date for submission of tender: **30/06/2022 upto 16.00 Hrs.,** 8) Date of opening of Technical Bid: **01/07/2022 at 16:30 Hrs.** 9) Date of opening of Financial Bid: **04/07/2022 at 16.30 Hrs,** 10) Enquiries: Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi, 11) website : **www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/Kalaburagi/269/MC&A/2022-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division Kalaburagi

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
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ಈ–ಮೇಲ್ :itstaff_ulb_periyapatna@yahoo.com Phone(O): 08223-273036
ಸಂ:ಪುಪಸ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಜೆಇ.2/ಟೆಂಡರ್–03/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.06.2022

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ – (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯುರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ ಪಿರಿಯಾಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪುರಸಭಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2016–17ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ. ವಿಶೇಷ (ಉಳಿಕೆ) ಅನುದಾನಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು, ಬೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಸ್ಟಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–3) ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಯಂತೆ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ತಮಗೆ ಬೇಕಾದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಂಡು ನಂತರ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯುರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ವಿವರ:– (1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **15.06.2022** ರಿಂದ **30.06.2022** ರ ವರೆಗೆ. (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **30.06.2022** ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **04.00** ಗಂಟೆ. (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **02.07.2022** ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **04.00** ಗಂಟೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂ.	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ	ವರ್ಗ
1	DMA/2021-22/RD/WORK_INDENT116019/CALL-2	62.35	ಇತರೆ

ಸೂಚನೆ : ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ನೀಡುವ ಇತರೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಪರತ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ ಬದ್ಧರಾಗಿರತಕ್ಕದ್ದು ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– (ಶ್ರೀ. ಕೆ. ಮಹೇಶ್) ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಪಿರಿಯಾಪಟ್ಟಣ
ಸಹಿ/– (ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ನಾಗರತ್ನ ಉಮೇಶ್) ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಪಿರಿಯಾಪಟ್ಟಣ
ಸಹಿ/– (ಶ್ರೀ ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಕೃಷ್ಣ) ಸ್ಥಾಯಿ ಸಮಿತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಪಿರಿಯಾಪಟ್ಟಣ
ಸಹಿ/– (ಶ್ರೀ ಪ್ರಸನ್ನ ಎ.ಟಿ.) ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಪಿರಿಯಾಪಟ್ಟಣ

DIPR/DD-MYS/MCA/113/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients have negotiated with the owner Mr. BENEDICT ERNEST, Son of Mr. Paul David, aged about 63 years, residing at Flat No.202, Dheeraj Manor Apartment, No.24, Kensington Road, Ulsoor, Bangalore- 560008 for the purchase of the

Immovable property bearing Corporation No. SC-509, HRBR Layout, 2nd block, Banaswadi, in Corporation ward No.88(27), Bangalore, PID No. 88-254-SC-509 bounded on the East by Site No. SC-511, West by Site No.SC-507, North by Site No. SAC-510, South by 5th Cross Road, Measuring East to West 15.24 Mtrs., and North to South 24.40 Mtrs., totally measuring 371.85 Sq. Mtrs.

any person or persons having/ asserting any right, title or interest by way of sale, exchange, lease, tenancy, license, assignment, mortgage, charge, lien, trust, family arrangement/ settlement, encumbrances, inheritance, bequest, easement, possession development rights, order/ decree/ judgement of any court, agreement or otherwise however, claims or intending to oppose the purchase in any manner may file their objections to the undersigned within TEN DAYS from the date of publication of notice hereof with documentary proof, where after no such claims will be entertained and my clients will proceed with the purchase of the said property.

Manjunath Swamy.P Advocate
No.55,Geetha Mandir 1st Cross,
Pemmegowda Road, J.C. Nagar
Bangalore -560006
Date: 15/06/2022

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹುಬ್ಬಾಡಾ–ಕಾರವಾರ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ –581 301.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08382–228935, ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 229735 e-mail: eerdwsd.uk@gmail.com
ಸಂ: ಕಾನೀಂ/ಗ್ರಾಕುನೈ/ಕಾರವಾರ/ಎಪಿ–1/ ಟೆಂಡರ್/JJM/2022–23/741 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.06.2022

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಯಂತರರು, ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ/ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಖರೀದಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ Standard Tender Document KW-4 ರಂತೆ ಷರತ್ತುಬದ್ಧ ಕಾಲಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾದ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಆದೇಶಗಳನ್ವಯ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಬದುವಾದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಆಡಳಿತ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಸಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು : (1)INDENT 41071 (2) INDENT 40901

(1) Downloading of document through e-proc portal: 18.06.2022 to 02.07.2022 up to 16.30 Hrs. (2) Time & date of Pre-Bid Conference: 21.06.2022 Time: 11.30 Hrs. Venue: O/o. Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division Po: Habbuwada, Karwar- Uttara Kannada Dist. (3) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: **02.07.2022** Time: 16.30 Hrs. (4) Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening: **04.07.2022** Time: 17:00 Hrs. (5) Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening: Will be informed technically qualified bidders after approval of Technical Bid.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರರು
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ (ಉ.ಕ.ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ)

DIPR/ADK/MCA/82/22-23 dt 17.06.2022

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SPORTS
State Youth Centre, Hrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560 001
Ph: 080-22215601, 22211246, Fax: 080-22215602

No: DYES/AP/ES/87/2022-23 Date: 17-06-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

The Deputy Director (Admn), invites tender from the eligible contractors for the following work.

Sl.No.	Particulars	Tender Amount	EMD Amount
1	Construction of Indoor Stadium at Taluk Stadium, Nanjanagoodu, Mysuru District.	Rs. 173.88 Lakhs	Rs. 2,60,815/-

The tender shall be submitted through e-Procurement Portal: **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** Vendors need to register in the e-Procurement Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement Portal.

1) Last Date and Time for Submission of Tender Documents through E-Procurement Portal: **27-06-2022, Time: 16.00 Hrs.**
2) Opening of Technical Bid: **28-06-2022, Time: 16.30 Hrs.**
3) Opening of Financial Bid: **will be intimated.**

Further information may be obtained at the above mentioned Address.

Sd/- Deputy Director (Admn) and Tender Inviting Authority
Dept. of Youth Empowerment and Sports

DIPR/CP/950/Advertn/2022-23

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Department of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood
Society For Karnataka German Multi Skill Development Centre
(A Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the KGMSDC, CoE Building, Kaushalya Bhavan Campus, Bannerughatta Road, Bengaluru-29. Ph.No: 080-29649797

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement portal only)

KGMSDC Society invites tenders from the original equipment manufacturers for supply of AC-UPS and Manufacturing Equipment for KGTTIs. Reference No: KGS/PUR/KGT/EQP/CR-209/2022-23. Bid documents are available **from 17.06.2022.** Last date of downloading of Bid document is **on 16.07.2022.** Pre-Bid Metin g is on : **01.07.2022** .Opening of bid document is **on 21.07.2022.** The tenders can be obtained through e-procurement from the tendering Website ttps://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Aspiring bidders need to register on e-procurement portal. Bidders can take assistance with e-procurement helpdesk at 91-8046010000, +91-80 68948777.

Sd/- Member Secretary, KGMSDC, Bengaluru

Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Bangalore Rural, Beerasandra, Devanahalli Taluk,
Ph No.: 080-29787463 Email-Id: eerdwsd.bngr1@gmail.com
No. EE/RDW&Sanitation Division/BR/TB/Tender22-23/285
Date: 16.06.2022

E-Procurement Short-term Tender Notification No. 04/2022-23 Date: 16.06.2022
(Only through e-procurement portal)

Tenders are invited on behalf of Governer of Karnataka according to KTTP Act 2000 through E-procurement Portal for the works under 2021-22 2215 H/A under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to **Provide FHTCs to House Holds in Bangalore Rural District** (Standard Tender Document KW-2, KW-3) Application & EMD Payment to be done through E-Procurement Portal.

General conditions: (1) Contractor has to upload Document in online only(2) All qualifying documents has to be attached in online.

(1) Tender Schedule can be downloaded from website: **After 4.00 p.m.** on **17.06.2022. (2)** Last date for tender uploading: **Up to 4.00 p.m.** on **02.07.2022. (3)** Date of opening of Tender / Technical Bid: **At 11.00 a.m.** on **04.07.2022. (4)** Date of opening of Financial Bid: **At 11.00 a.m.** on **08.07.2022.**

More details can be taken from the office of the undersigned and also through **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** by clicking **List of Tenders** which will link to all Dept. works list.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division, Bangalore Rural.

DIPR/DD-C.P/943/MCA/2022-23

Govt. of Karnataka (Zilla Panchayat, Gadag)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Gadag
No.PRED/GDG/PB-3/Tender/2022-23/603 Date : 17-06-2022

Short Term E-Procurement Tender Notification
Standard Bid Document KW- 3 [Two Cover System]

Tenders are invited for the following 08 No. of works as per Karnataka Public Transparency Act-2000 Standard Bid Document KW-3 Rules from eligible contractor through e-Procurement Portal Eligible Contractors registered in the year 2019-20 under **2021–22** ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ **5054** Spl. Grant fund/2021-22 3054 Lumpsum Grant of Panchayat Raj Engineering Department can Participate through **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Work Indent	Amount Put to Tender (in Rs)	EMD Amount to be submitted through e-proc(in Rs.)	Period from Completion of work (including Monsoon)	Class of Contractor
1	IMPROVEMENTS TO ROAD FROM TOLALLI VILLAGE TO BIDARAHALLI ROAD IN LAXMESHWAR TALUK, GADAG DIST. UNDER 2021-22 5054 SPL GRANT. **WORK_INDENT90482/CALL-2**	**8943376.56**	**178900/-**	6 Months	Valid PWD contractor can participate KW-3
2	IMPROVEMENTS TO ROAD FROM SHIGLI VILLAGE TO HESARUR ROAD IN LAXMESHWAR TALUK, GADAG DIST. UNDER 2021-22 5054 SPL GRANT **WORK_INDENT90483/CALL-2**	**6236508.29**	**124800/-**	6 Months	Valid PWD contractor can participate KW-3
3	IMPROVEMENTS TO ROAD FROM BANNIKOPPA MURADI IN LAXMESHWAR TALUK(VR-31) IN GADAG DIST. UNDER 2021-22 5054 SPL GRANT. **WORK_INDENT90484/CALL-2**	**8945237.13**	**178950/-**	6 Months	Valid PWD contractor can participate KW-3
4	IMPROVEMENTS TO ROAD FROM KUNDRALLI - SHETTIKERI IN LAXMESHWAR TALUJK (VR-81) IN GADAG DIST. UNDER 2021-22 5054 SPL GRANT. **WORK_INDENT90485/CALL-2**	**8919608.26**	**178400/-**	6 Months	Valid PWD contractor can participate KW-3
5	IMPROVEMENTS TO ROAD FROM KUNDRALLI - KUNDRALLI TANDA ROAD TO CHABBI ROAD CONNECTING ROAD IN LAXMESHWAR TALUK (VR-182) IN GADAG DIST. UNDER 2021-22 5054 SPL GRANT. **WORK_INDENT90486/CALL-2**	**8919437.11**	**178400/-**	6 Months	Valid PWD contractor can participate KW-3
6	IMPROVEMENTS TO ROAD FROM SHIGLI GONAL ROAD TO KALASAM ROAD IN LAXMESHWAR TALUK(VR-127) IN GADAG DIST. UNDER 2021-22 5054 SPL GRANT. **WORK_INDENT90487/CALL-2**	**8917790.97**	**178400/-**	6 Months	Valid PWD contractor can participate KW-3
7	CONSTRUCTION OF CC ROAD FROM ADARHALLI VILLAGE TO GAVISIDDESHWARA TEMPLE IN ADARHALLI VILLAGE OF LAXMESHWAR TALUK IN GADAG DIST.UNDER 5054 SPL GRANT. **WORK_INDENT90488/CALL-2**	**6239931.16**	**124800/-**	6 Months	Valid PWD contractor can participate KW-3
8	PK-I GADAG: 1]REPAIRS TO INTERIOR ROAD FROM GAVARAWAD TO HUILGOL ROAD [2]IMPROVEMENTS TO ROAD FROM BALAGANUR TO BELAVANAKI IN GADAG TALUK OF GADAG DIST UNDER 2021-22 3054 LUMPSUM GRANT. **WORK_INDENT91038**	**7742232.36**	**154850/-**	6 Months	Valid PWD contractor can participate KW-3

Date for Submission of filled in application and Schedule-B through website is : **18-06-2022** to **27-06-2022** Date of opening of Technical Bid : **29-06-2022** at 16:30 hrs and opening of Financial Bid :**30-06-2022 at** 16:30 hrs. Successful eligible bidders of the Financial Bid must personally visit the above office for the difference amount of P.S.D. amount in the form of F.D.R. (as per Rule No.13) within 20 days from the date of publishing of the tender. Since it is electronic system and paper less there is no communication through letters, More details can be had during office hours.

DIPR/Gadag/MCA/111/2022-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Gadag

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THE HINDU
PROPERTY PLUS
ONE STOP PROPERTY SHOP

http://www.thehindu.com/features/homes-and-gardens

Earth-friendly checklist

ANUPAMA MOHANRAM says how despite the building sector being responsible for over 40% of greenhouse gas emissions, small eco-conscious steps can make way for big changes

Started in 1972, June 5 of every year is celebrated as World Environment Day. Fifty years later, the importance of this day cannot be emphasised enough. In India, this March has been recorded as the hottest in the last 120 years. The heat waves through the country since then have affected human health, crop production and placed a strain on electricity demand, creating the country's worst electricity shortage in over six years. Experts have warned that India will face more frequent and intense heat waves in the coming decades.

The primary cause of global warming is the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) as a result of human activities which have been rapidly increasing. In fact, nine of the 10 warmest years since then have occurred after 2005; and the five warmest years on record have occurred since 2015.

A report from the United Nations months ago painted a grim picture of the climate situation. It said that 37% of energy-related carbon dioxide emissions came from the construction sector. Though the COVID-induced lockdown brought about a desirable change with construction work coming to a halt, the operations are on the rise again. "The lack of real transformation in the sector means that emissions will keep rising and contribute to dangerous climate change. It could be possible to nearly eliminate carbon emissions from building sector operations by 2050," the UN report said. What can we do?

> Heat ingress can be reduced by use of roof insulation, heat-reflective roof tiles or roof gardens

Being energy smart

- Explore options to minimise the use of air-conditioners. The most effective way to do this is to minimise heat ingress into the building. Heat ingress can be reduced by use of roof insulation, heat reflective roof tiles or roof gardens.
- Install energy efficient fixtures and equipment that will further reduce energy consumption, thereby cutting down emissions as well as lowering electricity costs. These include LED lights, BLDC fans, BEE Star-rated air conditioners and appliances.
- Solar photovoltaics systems, which do not produce GHG emissions, can be installed to power the reduced energy load.

Save water

- Install water saver fixtures such as faucets with aerators and dual flush water closets.
- Install meters to monitor water use.
- Replace pavers on the ground with permeable surfaces such as soil and/or vegetation. The large quantity of pavers used in typical homes reduce rainwater percolation into the ground and end up letting out water into storm drains. This is water that could otherwise have been used to increase the ground water table. Vegetation will improve percolation and increase oxygen generation. Ensure that all the rainwater from the roofs is being led either into percolation pits or captured for direct use.
- Install wastewater treatment systems that allow re-use of water for irrigation and flushing instead of letting it out to pollute our streams and water bodies.

The above strategies will lead to reduced burden on the environment and also ensure water security for the future, reducing our reliance on exterior sources of water.

Questions for your builder

- Ensure adequate measures have been provided around the building to facilitate landscaping and good breezeways.
- Check if your apartment is well-lit naturally at different times of day.
- Check if all key spaces have access to cross ventilation to ensure that most of the indoor spaces are comfortable without the use of air conditioning.
- Ask the builder to quantify the estimated energy consumption and how much of this will be met by renewable energy sources / systems.
- Ask the builder for the water balance calculations – i.e. calculation of water demand and supply from various sources including the reuse of treated waste water and harvested rainwater.
- Demand water meters for individual dwelling units so consumption can be monitored per unit.
- Demand that only low or zero VOC paints and finishes are used. VOCs (Volatile Organic compounds) in paints, adhesives and other finishes are organic chemical compounds that evaporate easily at room temperature, harming human health and contributing to global warming.
- Demand infrastructure for solid waste management within the site.
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The writer is the founder of Green Evolution, a sustainable architecture firm.

Crucial steps

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Mysuru yoga centres yet to emerge out of pandemic shadow

Zero foreign arrivals have hit yoga studios and they now hope that the PM's participation in the International Yoga Day event will help turn around their fortunes

SHANKAR BENNUR
MYSURU

While COVID-19 situation is under control for now, despite the persisting fears of a fourth wave, yoga tourism in Mysuru, one of the country's top destinations for foreigners to learn the ancient art, is yet to recover from the impact of the pandemic. In fact, many yoga studios catering only to foreign nationals have shut down.

Only a few centres have survived the pandemic and managed with online classes. They are hoping to see a pre-pandemic-like yoga season by next year with many countries lifting all curbs, easing international travel.

Foreign nationals learning yoga in Mysuru. • FILE PHOTO

Fear of future waves

"The threats of future waves are perhaps deterring foreigners from visiting India for yoga. The curbs have gone and the situation is much better but the yoga centres are yet to get back the students. The continuous losses since the last two years with no offline classes led to the closure of many studios. Those having their own buildings are running classes for locals, but there are only a few," says yoga guru Shashi Kumar, founder, Nirvana Yoga Shala (Mystic School).

Foreigners used to avail tourist and student visas to learn yoga not just in Mysuru but also places like Rishikesh, Goa, Pune, and Dharamshala. The yoga centres here used to run to their full capacity from October till March as foreign nationals used to make a beeline to Mysuru's schools.

The common sights of foreigners clutching yoga mats in the upmarket Gokulam and Lakshmipuram here are missing after COVID-19 outbreak.

Hope of revival

On the brighter side, yoga enquiries from foreigners have picked up for slots in October to December, thanks to the International Day of Yoga which Mysuru is hosting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading the celebrations.

"Once the fear of travelling is eased, the studios may start getting back the students. The mayhem which COVID-19 caused in India is still haunting their minds. We are hopeful as teachers' training yoga and short-term yoga classes caters to them," explains Mr. Kumar.

A few yoga teachers said Mysuru is no exception as other yoga hubs are facing the same scenario. The situation is bad in Rishikesh. Goa can still manage with its regular tourism, they feel.

Many yoga gurus feel that Mr. Modi's visit to Mysuru for yoga day will trigger 'Brand Yoga'.

"The impact could be felt in the days ahead. The grand IDY is a big step for promoting yoga tourism for which Mysuru is well known. People have realised the benefits of yoga on health," said yoga exponent Sri Hari, convener, Yoga Federation of Mysuru.

2,500 a month

Prior to COVID-19, about 2,500 foreigners would arrive here every month from October to discover yoga. The duration of their stay depended on the course(s) they chose. Even after March, foreign nationals still visited the city to learn yoga but the arrivals were fewer in number (around 500 a month) because of the wet weather.

Weekly classes were introduced to suit the itinerary of foreign nationals who come on tourist visas. There were packages (based on duration of travel) to learn the basics of yoga and then traveling around the country to discover places.

Now, relaxation of visa norms (tourist and student) for yoga enthusiasts could boost tourism economy post-pandemic, according to yoga centres.

Plea for uniform curriculum

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Ahead of the mega IDY-2022 on June 21, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading it, suggestions are pouring in from experts for standardising yoga centres and bringing them on a common platform.

A collective syllabus can be recommended to the yoga schools, they say.

"Mysuru is also being recommended for establishing a yoga university. The yoga federation is preparing a proposal in this regard. This can spur research in yoga and success stories can be scientifically documented besides taking the ancient art to greater heights. The yoga schools can also be brought under it," said Sri Hari of Yoga Federation of Mysuru.

Rishikesh, Pune, and a few other cities where yoga is popular are planning to have yoga universities too. "Once the detailed proposal is ready, we will approach the authorities, including the PMO," he said.

Yoga gurus in Mysuru also want the State government to formalise yoga in school curriculum for reaping its benefits at a growing age.

"The yoga protocols are ready. Yoga can be introduced as a knowledge system in schools for health reasons as its benefits were understood during the pandemic. Schools can be the best way to promote yoga," felt Mr. Sri Hari.

Modi to attend breakfast meet hosted by Wadiyars

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is attending the breakfast meeting hosted by the erstwhile Mysuru royal family on June 21 after the mass yoga demonstration at the palace on the occasion of International Day of Yoga-2022.

Confirming this to reporters in Mysuru on Friday, Pratap Simha, MP, said Pramoda Devi Wadiyar and Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar have arranged the programme at the palace.

"We have invited the royal family for the Yoga Day and the list of elected representatives and dignitaries on the stage with the PM will be known either by tonight or tomorrow. Our respect to the Mysuru Maharajas and the royal family is unquestionable and the lies spread earlier on the issue over invite were uncalled for," he said.

After the Yoga Day event, the Prime Minister is visiting the exhibition organised on the occasion at the Dasara Exhibition Grounds in Doddakere Maidan, the MP said.

Interest among techies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Some relief came to Yoga schools hit by the pandemic came from IT professionals from megalopolis given their increased interest in yoga post COVID-19.

Pandemic led to interest in yoga among techies from Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, and Bengaluru, who used the 'work from home' option to stay in Mysuru for learning yoga. "They used to learn yoga in the morning and evening and work for their companies in the day from our studios. What they wanted from us was a strong Internet connectivity that we offered to them. They are returning to their companies with WFH option ending," said yoga guru Shashi Kumar, founder, Nirvana Yoga Shala (Mystic School).

Conduct drive to stop use of loudspeakers between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.: High Court

Petitioners complain about noise pollution due to illegal use of loudspeakers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday directed the State government to conduct a drive to stop the use of loudspeakers or public address systems by religious institutions, pubs, and restaurants during prohibited hours, between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., by misusing licences granted for using such instruments during day.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi and Justice Ashok S. Kinagi issued the direction during the hearing on the PIL petitioners, who complained about noise pollution caused due to illegal use of loudspeakers as well as using them beyond the permitted sound level.

The Bench issued the direction after the State government, in its status report, said that action has been initiated against use of loudspeakers or public address system without obtaining permissions under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000.

No permanent licence

Stating that no permanent licence is being used for use of loudspeakers as licence is limited for a period of two years with a provision for renewal, the government said that generally loudspeakers or public address systems cannot be used between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. irrespective of permission, except on closed premises for communication within, like auditoria, conference rooms, community halls, or during a public emergency.

However, the loudspeakers can be permitted to be used between 10 p.m. and 12 midnight during any cultural, religious, or festive occasion of a limited duration not exceeding 15 days in all during a calendar year as per the rules, the government pointed out.

As it is clear from the statement by the government that loudspeakers cannot be used between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., it is necessary for the authorities to take action against those violating this norm, the Bench said.

No limit on duration

Meanwhile, the government counsel told the Bench that there is no restriction in the rules on the duration for use of loudspeakers during day time, that is between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., except to ensure that noise levels should not exceed the prescribed limits for different categories of areas.

The government also said that it has been decided in a recent meeting, chaired by the Chief Minister, to form committees in the jurisdiction of city corporations and other areas for receiving applications for grant of licence for using loudspeakers.

The committee, consisting of officers from the police, the revenue, the pollution control board and the local authorities, will scrutinise the applications before the designated authority grants permission, the government stated.

The State police chief has issued detailed instructions to the station house officers on action to be initiated in case of illegal use of loudspeakers, the government pointed out.

Steep decline for JD(S) in Council in 2 years

The party has lost seven seats since November 2020

SHARATH S. SRIVATSA
BENGALURU

The Janata Dal (Secular)'s poor show in the recently concluded elections to Legislative Council signals declining strength of the regional party over the last couple of years in the Upper House, where the party's numbers mattered in important votes that the House witnessed. While the regional party's strength has reduced drastically, the period has also marked the improved numbers of the ruling BJP, which now has the majority in the House for the first time.

Seven big losses

The party has lost seven seats since November 2020, that includes two of its members moving away to BJP from where they have won. Those who migrated to saffron party are former Chairman Basavaraj Horatti, who won the record eighth time from Karnataka West Teachers constituency on Wednesday, and MLC Puttanna, who won from Bangalore Teachers constituency in November 2020. Another former JD (S) leader, A. Deve Gowda, moved to the BJP to win from Bangalore Graduates constituency.

In the results announced on Wednesday/Thursday, the regional party lost two seats that it held. Earlier, last month, while two of its members elected from the Legislative Assembly retired, the party could win only one seat since it did not have enough numbers to retain the second. The party also lost two of the four seats it held from local bodies authorities for which elections were held in December, 2021. Another MLC, Marithibbe Gowda, elected from Karnataka South Teachers constituency has also moved away from the party, and is headed to the Congress.

The importance of the regional party in the seat matrix and the politics that played out in the House in the recent years came to fore when as recently as in 2020 when the JD(S) votes mattered for the combined Opposition to defeat the amendments brought to the labour laws by the ruling BJP.

Earlier, in 2017, when the first ever no confidence motion in the over hundred year history of the Upper House was moved against the then Chairman D.H. Shankaramurthy, the veteran BJP leader survived by a wafer thin margin of one vote as the JD (S) came to his rescue. The regional party got its then member Mr. Horatti elected as chairman of the House with the support of BJP in February 2021.

Hit by inconsistencies

"The JD(S) has been seriously affected by leaders moving out, particularly in graduates and teachers constituencies. The inconsistencies in leadership aligning with the BJP on some issues and with the Congress on the other has left their MLCs confused," said a long-time political observer. "Frequent changing of political partners have confused the party's core voter base too."

The outcome, over the years, has been that the party that once held 15 seats in the 75-member Upper House and had a big voice in the House debates, especially on issues pertaining to education, teachers and rural development among many others, now has eight seats.

Former Chairman and Congress leader B.L. Shankar observed that polarisation is happening on a serious note in the elections to the Legislative Council seats in the last couple of years. "The BJP, which had base in urban centres, northern, and coastal Karnataka, has been pushing its way through in the Council polls. The decline of the JD(S) has helped the Congress in the South and the BJP in the North," said Mr. Shankar, who was with Janata Parivar earlier.

JD(S) core committee chairman Bandeppa Kashempur said the defeat in South Graduates will be deliberated in the core committee meeting to be convened shortly. "However, Council results will not have any impact on Assembly," he said.

'Will soldiers be committed if they are insecure about job'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah **(in picture)** asked the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to drop 'Agnipath', the new scheme for recruitment of soldiers, as 'it will push youth into unemployment and will have adverse impact on security of the country'.

In a series of tweets, he urged the Centre to recruit soldiers as per the existing process.

The Congress leader had a few questions about the scheme. "Can soldiers be completely involved if they are insecure about their job and clueless about their future due to #Agnipathscheme? Is it not dangerous if soldiers develop this insecurity?"

"The Modi government came to power with the promise of two crore job opportunities, but is now closing every opportunity for the youth. Mr. Modi, do you have an agenda to generate two crore unemployed youth a year?"

On scrapping of farm laws by the Centre, Mr. Siddaramaiah said: "People of our country have taught a lesson to the central government when they tried to implement anti-farmer laws. People should again teach a lesson for playing with the future of our youth and our soldiers".

"Is this BJP government so bankrupt that they are unable to ensure job security, and to pay salaries and pension to our committed soldiers? The Prime Minister should not play with our security to cover up the government's bankruptcy".

CM raises Almatti dam height issue with Centre

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai with Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in New Delhi on Friday.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Apart from reiterating Karnataka's demand for early clearance to the DPR on Mekedatu, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday broached the issue of raising the height of Almatti dam with the Centre.

The issue came up when Mr. Bommai held consultations with Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in Delhi.

"I have requested the Union Minister to give early clearance to Detailed Project Report on Mekedatu balancing reservoir project," he told media persons in Delhi.

"We also brought to the Minister's notice the need for the Centre to notify the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal's order related to increasing the height of Almatti dam.

Karnataka would have to again make submission in this regard before the Supreme Court," he said.

Mr. Bommai, who also met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and attended a meeting related to GST in which representatives from seven States participated, said an interim report would be submitted at the GST Council meeting to be held on June 27 and 28.

FIMI opposes govt. curbs on movement of iron ore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI) has opposed the State government's guidelines restricting the free movement of iron ore from Ballari, Chitradurga, and Tumakuru districts in the wake of a Supreme Court order last month which relaxed curbs on transportation and sale of iron ore from the State, like in other States.

The guidelines have considered only the stocks up to March 31, 2022, for issuance of permits. In such a scenario, the licence holders are in a dilemma on how to sell iron ore from the fresh production as the Directorate of Mines and Geology has refused to issue permits on fresh stocks, said a note from FIMI.

FIMI, in its letter to the government, said guidelines "are completely unwarranted, contrary to the court order and perverse."

It urged the government to take steps to withdraw the restriction imposed in the free flow of movement of iron ore produced in the State at the earliest by "abiding by the Supreme Court's order". The SC order issued on May 20, 2022, FIMI said, "does not make any mention to the closing balance of iron ore stocks furnished by the monitoring committee as on March 31, 2022, let alone contain any directions restricting the liberty granted to sell ore without e-auction, by inter-State sale, and exports."

Protest at Freedom Park

BENGALURU

Mahakavi Kuvempu Horata Samiti will hold a rally at Freedom Park here on Saturday against the revision of school textbooks by the Rohith Chakrathirtha committee at 11 a.m. Among the participants is former PM H.D. Deve Gowda.

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IN BRIEF

YSRCP govt. has failed on all fronts, says Naidu

VIZIANAGARAM

During a road show on Friday, former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party national president N. Chandrababu Naidu urged people to participate in "Remove Jagan-Save Andhra Pradesh campaign", alleging that the YSRCP government had failed on all fronts.

TTD restores privilege darshan for NRIs

TIRUMALA

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams will permit Non-Resident Indians for darshan of Lord Venkateswara similar to how they were allowed during pre-COVID-19 days. The NRIs will be allowed through the special entry darshan hall on payment of ₹300 after verification of passport, visa and other related documents.

Surrounded by smoke, screams, slogans

Hawkers and stall operators recount horror at Secunderabad railway station

B. PRADEEP
HYDERABAD

Counted among the most beautiful railway stations in the country, the Secunderabad railway station resembled nothing less than a battleground on Friday.

An unusually empty platform no.1 showed workers putting out flames from train bogies with water from the side-filling pipelines. Gunny-packed motorcycles, parcels, trash bins, coffee machines, refrigerators and railway linen were strewn on the tracks and platforms, and were partly ablaze.

The broken window glasses of the East Coast Express (Hyderabad-Shalimar) on platform no.2, the passenger lifts, and the destroyed audio-video and security equipment offered a glimpse of the vandalism and riot.

"It was about 8.40 a.m., just when the train was about to move, the protestors started from the engine, hit the driver with a pipe and stalled the train. Then tens and hundreds of them came bogie after bogie, breaking glasses, or pouring diesel and setting them on fire," Rajiv, a platform stall operator, said.

"It was the screams and cries of the children and women that rang like alarm for nearly 45 minutes, till all the passengers deboarded and ran pell-mell in every direction," he added.

For Santosh Kumar, who was sitting on his damaged aluminium food cart and making inventory, the other loud sound from the platforms was of "Bharat Mata ki Jai", "Modi down down" and "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" slogans.

Other stall operators Ravi Rajawat, Sonu and Pratham Tomar recounted how they left their businesses and ran to safety. They estimate their losses to be to the tune of ₹3 lakh.

According to them, many youngsters were armed with long sticks, who picked steel rods from the station's railings and fire extinguishers for the attack. They terrorised passengers in general coaches, broke glasses of all A/C coaches and burnt the linen, and torched the luggage and the Railway Mail Service.

The scale of violence took the railway officials and police by surprise as the protesters had a free run. They systematically went about ransacking the food stalls on the platforms and simultaneously breaking the glasses of the coaches. A group managed to open the parcel van and threw away the booked goods. Two-wheelers booked for being transported on the train were thrown on the tracks and set ablaze.

At one stage the police had to open fire to bring the situation under control. Over a dozen youth sustained bleeding injuries in the firing and were seen lying on the platform.

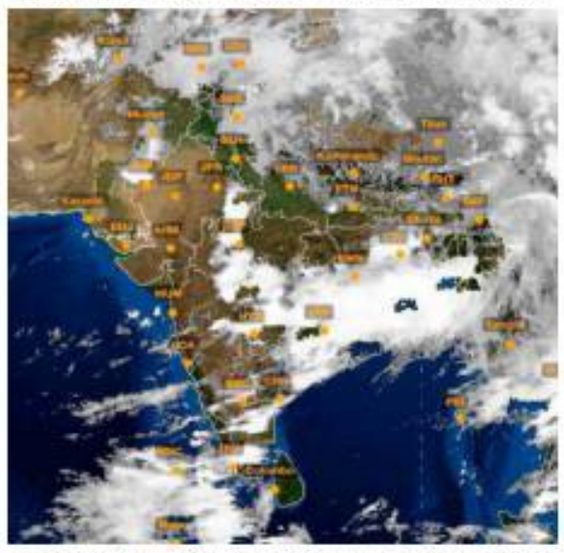
Of all the eyewitnesses, and survivors on the 22 coaches, three staff of the South Eastern Railways have a satisfying story to remember. It was the generator car, positioned just after a bogie that was on fire from the engine, which was under the control of Suman Kumar Sharma, and his mechanics Ram Pyari and Albert Barla. "It had about 4,000 litres of fuel. Any attack to it would have caused a disaster and killed hundreds. We disconnected the mains and supply underneath, locked the car and guarded it throughout, saving lives of all passengers," Mr. Sharma said.

Free run: Police trying to control a mob vandalising trains and railway property in Secunderabad on Friday. •NAGARA GOPAL

RELATED REPORTS ON ▸ NEWS 2

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Lakshadweep. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	21	26.5	25.0	Kozhikode	34	32.6	24.2
Ahmedabad	–	40.6	28.3	Kurnool	1	35.9	25.6
Aizawl	–	23.0	21.6	Lucknow	–	40.1	28.2
Allahabad	–	39.0	27.4	Madurai	25	34.0	23.6
Bengaluru	38.9	30.5	19.7	Mangaluru	10.2	31.3	23.5
Bhopal	–	39.3	–	Mumbai	4	33.7	26.1
Bhubaneswar	1.8	34.8	26.6	Mysuru	18	30.6	21.0
Chandigarh	15.5	38.2	22.6	New Delhi	7.2	36.7	22.8
Chennai	–	35.9	28.5	Patna	–	38.6	29.3
Coimbatore	–	34.3	22.6	Port Blair	–	31.0	25.6
Dehradun	5	31.3	22.0	Puducherry	–	32.4	24.3
Gangtok	29.2	18.3	16.2	Pune	–	34.3	24.4
Goa	34	31.9	23.7	Raipur	–	37.0	28.0
Guwahati	42	28.0	23.6	Ranchi	–	31.6	24.5
Hubballi	–	31.0	22.0	Shillong	101	19.0	16.4
Hyderabad	–	35.8	25.8	Shimla	9	25.1	17.0
Imphal	4	24.0	21.6	Srinagar	1	26.8	15.1
Jaipur	1	39.2	26.0	Thiruvananthapuram	0.9	32.4	24.6
Kochi	1	31.2	24.2	Tiruchi	–	33.5	25.0
Kohima	24	22.5	15.4	Vijayawada	8	36.6	26.4
Kolkata	–	34.4	28.9	Visakhapatnam	16	33.2	27.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	51	52	53	58	105	
Bengaluru	13	21	21	77	82	
Chennai	21	15	69	46	58	
Delhi	3	154	77	77	90	
Hyderabad	16	40	70	55	102	
Kolkata	13	14	22	43	84	
Lucknow	8	33	71	91	107	
Mumbai	1	45	47	47	55	
Pune	123	152	113	89	69	
Visakhapatnam	15	39	14	–	56	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Patna, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 237 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Madras HC dismisses plea of Nalini, Ravichandran to free them

Bench says Governor's nod is essential under Article 161

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Friday dismissed the writ petitions filed by S. Nalini and R.P. Ravichandran, the life convicts in the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, seeking a direction to the Tamil Nadu government to release them forthwith without waiting anymore for the Governor's nod to a September 9, 2018 Cabinet recommendation.

Chief Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari and Justice N. Mala concurred with Advocate-General R. Shunmugasundaram that the Governor's signature was *sine qua non* under Article 161 of the Constitution and that the Supreme Court, too, in the famous Maru Ram's case (1980) had held that it was "obligatory" to obtain his/her signature. "If the argument of learned counsel for the petitioners that a mere recommendation of the Council of Ministers to grant remission is sufficient and authorisation of the Governor is not required is accepted, then virtually the court would be declaring Article 161 of the Constitution of India redundant qua [with respect to] the power of the Governor," the Bench wrote. It went on to state, "It may be true that the Governor of the State is bound by the recommendation of the Council of Ministers, but it would not mean that the formal acceptance as per the constitutional courtesy would not be required... Therefore, Article 161 of the Constitution has to be read as it stands without omitting the word – Governor."

The Bench said SC in the MP Special Police Establishment case (2004) had held that the President or Governor should act upon the advice of the Cabinet but for a few exceptional situations.

Over 200 people fall ill after wedding feast

STAFF REPORTER
CHITTOOR

Over 200 villagers, including elderly persons and children, were taken ill after they had lunch at a marriage function at Padmapuram village of S.R. Puram mandal, 40 km from here, on Friday.

According to information, a large number of guests from several villages of S.R. Puram and neighboring mandals attended the marriage and had lunch. Around 5 p.m., many people who attended the wedding complained of dizziness and nausea, while several women, elderly, and children swooned at Padmapuram and surrounding villages. As group after group of the sick started reaching the government hospital at S.R. Puram mandal headquarters, medical officers at Chittoor were alerted.

Between 5 p.m. and 8.30 p.m., over 80 patients were referred to the higher medical institutions at Chittoor and Tirupati, while several others were rushed to the government and private hospitals at Puttur, Chittoor, and Pallipattu in Tamil Nadu. District Immunisation Officer P. Ravi Raju said: "As of now, we have information that except falling ill, all are absolutely out of danger. The reason behind this incident will be probed."

HC stays trial in Attappady murder case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Friday stayed the trial in the case regarding the lynching of tribesman A. Madhu of Attappady pending before a special court.

Madhu was lynched on February 22, 2018, by a mob for allegedly stealing rice from a grocery shop.

Justice Mary Joseph passed the interim order on a petition filed by Malli, mother of the deceased Madhu, seeking a directive to hold the proceedings till the government took a decision on her plea for removing special public prosecutor C. Rajendran.

Pinarayi using police to stifle dissent: Satheesan

'CPI(M) desperate to save Kerala CM'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Leader of the Opposition in Kerala V.D. Satheesan has accused Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan of abetting the police to foist false cases against the Youth Congress activists who raised slogans in protest against him on an Indigo airplane after it landed in the capital from Kannur on Monday.

CPI(M) State secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan and Left Democratic Front convener E.P. Jayarajan who made public statements initially that the activists raised the slogans after Mr. Vijayan exited the aircraft are now at pains to portray that an attempt was made on his life. The about-turn is due to the intervention of the Chief Minister's Office, Mr. Satheesan said while addressing the media here on Friday.

Mr. Satheesan said the "CPI(M)-controlled police" was now engaged in applying a different standard of justice for political opponents. Three Congress offices were bombed, another three offices were torched and 27 offices were trashed. Yet the police have not filed any case. The CPI(M)'s double standards is very much in evidence in the IndiGo airlines incident, wherein no cases have been charged against Mr. Jayarajan who allegedly manhandled the protesters, he said.

(Mr. Balakrishnan, in an article in the CPI(M) mouthpiece *Deshabhimani*, opined that the Youth Congress protest was indeed an attempt on the life of CM.)

"If there has been a violation of any DGCA rules, let action be taken against the protesters. We will face it legally," said Mr. Satheesan.

Mirror image

Tough task: Water stagnating at the entrance of the Gangaikonda Cholapuram temple after the recent rain in Ariyalur district of Tamil Nadu. As there is no proper drainage facility, visitors have to wade through water to enter the temple. •B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Ancient rock paintings identified in Bargur

They are in a cave in Erode district

S.P. SARAVANAN
ERODE

Yaakkai Team volunteers Sudhakar Nalliyappan, Kumaravel Ramasamy and Sidhalingan recently visited a forest area in the Bargur Hills of Erode district to join a tribal worship ritual during which they spotted paintings in a collapsed cave. The place, called Rukkal Muniyappan, is where a deity of Muneeswarar is located. It is worshipped by tribal people, including the Sholagar, the Kurumbar and the Bedagampana Lingayat.

Hunting scene

A rock, 30 feet high and 250 feet in length, has paintings in red ochre and white. A hunting scene in red displays human figures and a herd of deer standing opposite each other, while in some images, deer of various sizes are presented.

A painting shows a warrior engaging an enemy. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

About 30 feet above the ground, an anthropomorphic painting, four feet high, was seen. It looks similar to the Mother Goddess megalithic structures identified at T. Mottur village in Tiruvannamalai district. Two deer and a few animals can be seen beneath the leg of the painting, which depicts the deity blessing humans with resources for hunting.

Kerala accuses Centre of ignoring NRI returnees' welfare

State says proposal for rehabilitation package not accepted

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government has accused the Centre of doing little for the rehabilitation of Non Resident Indian (NRI) returnees who have been rendered jobless by the COVID-19 pandemic.

An approach paper presented by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at the third Loka Kerala Sabha highlights the lack of a national migration policy and bemoans the Central government's purported unwillingness to share migration data.

Industries Minister P. Rajeeve read out the document on behalf of the Chief Minister.

P. Rajeeve

Stating that nearly 17 lakh non-resident Keralites have returned during the pandemic, the approach paper accuses the Centre of failing in its duties of ensuring the welfare of the returnees. The State government had approached the Union government to sanction a ₹2,000-crore rehabilitation package for the displaced. But the proposal was not accepted.

The Centre's SWADES (Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support) skill card programme, envisaged to support non-resident Indian (NRI) returnees, had also failed to make an impact among the section since its launch.

The State also finds fault with the proposed emigration Bill, 2021 which purportedly seeks to transfer the burden of migrant rehabilitation on the State governments.

Off to school through swirling waters

Lack of bridge across Chaliyar hits tribal students

ABDUL LATHEEF NAHA
MALAPPURAM

SPECIAL

Dozens of children from four marooned tribal hamlets in the jungle across the Chaliyar river at Munderi near Nilambur in Kerala are risking their lives to reach schools every day. They have been forced to use bamboo rafts to cross the river since two bridges were washed away in the floods that devastated one of the hamlets in 2018.

Risky move: Tribal children crossing Chaliyar river to reach their school, near Nilambur in Kerala. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The government has done nothing to re-establish physical connectivity for the 105 tribal families living in Vaniyampuzha, Tharippapotti, Iruttukuthi and Kumbalappara hamlets to reach the mainland since 2018. Although the Malappuram Collector and his revenue colleagues raised a fund and built a hanging bridge to help the 400-odd tribes-people, it did not last beyond 2019.

The hardship of the tribal children has come to the fore with the reopening of schools in full swing after a hiatus of two years brought about by COVID-19. With the government deciding to wind up single-teacher multi-grade learning centres, all the children of the marooned hamlets have no means but to depend on the mainland for education.

About half of them have joined tribal schools with hostels in the State. When all students of Kumbalappara, the remotest hamlet of the Kattunaikar tribe, were shifted to residential schools, more than 40 students of Iruttukuthi, Vaniyampuzha and Tharippapotti hamlets cross the river twice a day for their education.

The Chaliyar, one of the mighty rivers of Kerala, swells in its upstream region during the monsoon and poses a huge risk for the children crossing it on raft. "When it rains heavily, crossing the river on the raft is risky. Our men cannot operate the raft when the current is strong," said V.K. Sudha, a parent who helps the children cross the river daily.

On a couple of days last week, the children crossed the river by wading through it as the rains had stayed away. "They waded largely because they did not have money to pay for the bamboo raft," said Ms. Sudha. The men operating the raft charge a fee from the users.

Playing with fire

Hold back the Agnipath given the failure to push it as anything but a cost-cutting measure

All non-officer appointments to the three wings of the Indian armed forces will be through the Agnipath (literally, the path of fire), the Centre announced on June 14. The Government has enumerated its reasons for the move that fundamentally disrupts not only the process of recruitment but also the character of the soldier. Almost on cue, a section of experts has jumped in praising the move as transformative for the country's defence. But many in the defence community and also political observers have not shied away from expressing their reservations and shock. Youth aspiring to join the forces are on the streets in protest in several States, and are even turning violent in many places. With no recruitment in the last two years due to COVID-19, these youngsters were already frustrated. With modest education and skills, they fear the new process stalls an accessible escape route from poverty. As opposed to the existing 15 years plus service followed by lifelong pension, the new recruits, or Agniveers (literally, fire heroes) will have a four-year tenure including six months of training. Upon completion they will be given an opportunity to apply for permanent cadre and up to a fourth would be enrolled as regular cadre. The rest will exit with a tax-free purse of approximately ₹11.71 lakh and return to civil life to aid in 'nation building'. The process of recruitment will commence in 90 days with an intake of about 46,000 youngsters.

The Government claims the new scheme will help build a younger, fitter defence force, with personnel more trainable in the changing technological environment. It says it will also inculcate military discipline, ethos and skilling as a value addition, improving the prospects for those who return to civil society. To start with, there will be no permanent recruitment in the armed forces for the next four years. Critics who include many fellow travellers of the ruling BJP have raised concerns such as potential damage to operational preparedness given the crises on the borders, with personnel hired for the short term, trained in a rush and lacking the camaraderie that professional forces possess. If a soldier's job is now turned into a contractual employment, it might not motivate aspirants who hope for job security, pension and honour. The argument that defence should not be treated as an employment guarantee scheme is rhetorically impressive, but the fact is that from the manufacturing of arms to the employment of soldiers, the sector plays a critical role in the economy. For a country like India, where unemployment remains a major policy challenge, the concerns cannot be dismissed easily. The Government also faces the very credible charge that this is nothing more than a cost cutting plan. Considering all this, the Centre must put the plan on hold and revisit it in consultation with political parties, and a wider range of experts.

Bubble in the air

Without regulation of crypto currencies, retail investors will have no protection from scams

The crash in the price of cryptocurrencies is a timely reminder to retail investors to stay far away from this highly speculative asset class. Bitcoin, the most popular cryptocurrency, has lost over two-thirds of its value since its peak in November last year and has wiped out many retail investors. Other cryptocurrencies have witnessed even larger losses with some (Luna) plunging to zero. The current crash was a long time in the making. Cryptocurrencies were initially touted to be alternatives to fiat currencies. Since the supply of a lot of cryptocurrencies is limited by design, investing in them seemed like a good way to protect one's wealth from inflation fuelled by central banks. But as it became obvious that cryptocurrencies have had very little acceptance as money, crypto-enthusiasts began to argue a slightly different case. Cryptocurrencies were now touted as an independent asset class like gold and silver that could serve as an effective hedge in times of crisis. The crash in the crypto market amidst wider market correction has put to rest the argument that crypto, as an asset class, is as good a hedge as precious metals. There is little reason to believe that cryptocurrencies possess any intrinsic value that can make them serve the role of widely accepted money or as a legitimate asset class such as precious metals.

The acceptability of cryptocurrencies in the wider economy has remained minuscule and there are no signs of their use for purposes other than wild speculation. But the only tailwind that has kept cryptocurrencies rallying despite concerns about their fundamental or intrinsic value has been the climate of easy monetary policy adopted by central banks. Easy money from central banks fuelled the rise of a get-rich-quick industry that depended on selling to a greater fool. Just as Internet stocks and tulip bulbs were the hallmarks of liquidity-fuelled bubbles in the past, cryptocurrencies are the leading symbol of the current bubble in markets. But perhaps the biggest threat to their prospects has been an existential one. Governments and their central banks have been largely unwilling to recognise cryptocurrencies as a legitimate investment asset. They are also unlikely to recognise private cryptocurrencies as they infringe on the state's fiscal and monetary authority. Moreover, this hostile attitude is at least partly to blame for the shady nature of the crypto industry at large. Retail investors looking for quick market gains have had to plunge into an unregulated space marked by scams and other pitfalls in the absence of a legal environment that can protect investor interests. So, regardless of the investment prospects of cryptocurrencies, a proper regulatory framework may help in protecting retail investors, at least from outright scams.

Agnipath, a fire that could singe India

The Government's defence recruitment plan could endanger the safety of the country and affect the stability of society

SUSHANT SINGH

It was on September 15, 2013 that Narendra Modi addressed an ex-servicemen rally at Rewari, Haryana as the Bharatiya Janata Party's prime ministerial candidate, where he vociferously supported the demand of 'One Rank One Pension' (OROP) for all soldiers. Mr. Modi was then campaigning in poetry, and nine years later, as the Agnipath scheme for recruitment of short-term contracted soldiers was announced, he has been forced to contend with the reality of governing in prose. However hard the Government may try to obfuscate, the driving factor for this U-turn – from 'One Rank One Pension' to 'No Rank No Pension' – is economics.

Financial motivations

The OROP demand became tricky to fulfil once Mr. Modi became Prime Minister, but it was officially instituted in November 2015 for more than 25 lakh defence pensioners. It came with an immediate annual financial implication of ₹7,123.38 crore and the actual arrears from July 1, 2014 to December 31, 2015 were ₹10,392.35 crore. The financial burden increased cumulatively over time and has substantially increased the budgetary expenditure on defence pensions. In the current financial year, ₹1,19,696 crore has been budgeted for pensions, along with another ₹1,63,453 crore for salaries – that is 54% of the allocation for the Defence Ministry.

It has been argued that the savings in the pensions bill – which will show up on the books only after a couple of decades – would be directed towards the modernisation of defence forces. The armed forces do not have that kind of time available to them to postpone their already long-delayed modernisation. The money must come now. The Indian Air Force is already down to 30 squadrons of fighter jets against the 42 squadrons it needs, and the Indian Navy is at 130 ships when its vision was to be a 200-ship navy; the Indian Army is already short of 1,00,000 soldiers. The announcement of the Agniveer scheme is an implicit acknowledgement that the Indian economy is incapable of supporting the armed forces that India needs. It faces an active military threat from two adversaries, China and Pakistan, and the internal security challenges in Kashmir and the northeastern States. These realities cannot be wished away. Instead of expanding the economy to support the military, the Government has resorted to shrinking the military.

Damaging consequences

As the short-term recruitment policy has neither been theoretically modelled nor tried out as a pilot project, the exact consequences of the move will only be known as they play out. But its adverse effect on the professional capabilities of the armed forces is certain. It starts with the very high turnover of young soldiers, the increase in training capacities and infrastructure and the augmentation of the administrative setup for greater recruitment, release, and retention of soldiers. An armed forces boasting of a poor teeth-to-tail ratio is further increasing the tail. The Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy employ their airmen and sailors in very specialised roles, which require technical skills, and a high degree of training and experience. They form the backbone of the system that keeps the warships at sea, the fighter jets in the air, and high-tech weapons and platforms operational. Because the short-term contractual soldier model (the Agniveer scheme) is going to take a few years to fully play out at an organisational level, the actual degradation of operational capability will only be known then.

In the case of the Indian Army, the challenge is two-fold. The Indian Army has emerged from a legacy which traces to 1748. In the early years, says a paper by Syed Hussain Shaheed Soherwordi, the emphasis was on discipline and efficiency, and their separation from the fragmented Indian society. This turned the Indian soldiers into a professional, united and autonomous fighting force whose loyalty, in Stephen Rosen's words, was to their 'homogeneous military units' for which they served 'full time, long term' rewarded with a secure pay and pension system. As the homogenous nature of the Bengal army was seen as one of the factors that contributed to the outbreak of the 1857 Mutiny, the British Crown thereafter maintained distinction and separateness of castes and class in the Indian Army, as described in the paper.

NAGARA GOPAL

Even after Independence, class-based recruitment – the euphemism for caste – has defined the nature and the character of the Indian Army, shaping its ethos and fighting capabilities. In an affidavit in court a couple of years ago, the Government asserted that the Army has "performed exceedingly well while maintaining the class composition in recruitment of presidential bodyguards and changing to All India class composition will not only affect the functioning of the PBG [President's Bodyguard] Presidential but will also affect the seniority structure of the regiment". It defended class-based units by claiming that "after selection, personnel are grouped based on functional requirements to have optimum operation effectiveness".

In the Agnipath proposal, the class-based recruitment has been replaced with an all-India all-class recruitment. The reasons for this drastic shift in the Government's thinking are a secret but it will strike at the core of the organisational management, leadership structures and operating philosophy of the Indian Army. Even though the soldiers in the Indian Army are professionally trained, they also draw their motivation from their social identity – reflected in the characterisation of *naam, namak* and *nishan* – where each soldier cares for his reputation among the peers in his caste group or his village or his social setting. To replace that with a pure professional identity of a soldier will bring its own challenges in a tradition-bound army, where units showcase their campaigns in the 18th century as battle honours. Running a Gorkha regiment with a Jat soldier from Haryana, a Malayali from Kerala and a Meitei from Manipur needs massive restructuring, something the Army currently seems unprepared for. It is driven more by a hope that as an adaptive institution with great resilience, the Army will somehow find a way to deal with this upheaval while protecting its operational capabilities.

There are other challenges thrown up by the model. There will be major problems in training, integrating and deploying soldiers with different levels of experience and motivations. The criterion of identifying the 25% short-term contracted soldiers to be retained could result in unhealthy competition. An organisation which depends on trust, camaraderie and esprit de corps could end up grappling with rivalries and jealousies amongst winners and losers, especially in their final year of contract. Even though the Government has kept the contract at four years to deny the Agniveer gratuity and is not counting the contractual period towards regular service, these provisions are bound to be challenged legally; and just like the OROP issue, could become a politically attractive demand for longer tenures and pensions to be picked up by the Opposition parties. Over time, this will lead to the salary and pension budget creeping back up again.

Political, social implications

The Agnipath scheme also does away with the idea of a State-wise quota for recruitment into the Army, based on the Recruitable Male Population of that State which was implemented from 1966. This prevented an imbalanced army, which was dominated by any one State, linguistic community or ethnicity, as it happened in the case of Pakistan with its province of Punjab. Academic research shows that the high level of ethnic imbalance has been associated with severe problems of democracy and an increased likelihood of civil war, a worrying scenario for today's India where federalism is being severely tested by the ruling party's ideology.

Coupled with this is the lack of hope in India's economy, where over 45 crore Indians have stopped looking for jobs, there are high levels of unemployment and underemployment. It is to this mix that these few thousand young men who have been trained in inflicting organised violence will be thrown up every year. From erstwhile Yugoslavia to Rwanda – and closer home, during Partition – there are numerous examples of demobilised soldiers leading to increased violence against minorities. Today's India is characterised by weak state capacity, where the state has ceded its exclusive right to violence to majoritarian groups. This provides a heady cocktail which only needs a spark to consume India.

In India, the Indian Army has so far provided salary, uniform and prestige, an inheritance of the British who took care of the living conditions, facilities for the soldiers' families, and post-retirement benefits and rewards, such as grants of land. This meant that military service remained attractive to many generations of the same families, anchoring them in tradition. It also resulted in social standing and privilege where pensions resulted in a comfortable life for the retired soldier. A short-term contractual soldier, without earning pension, will be seen as doing jobs after his military service that are not seen to be commensurate in status and prestige with the profession of honour. It will reduce the motivation of those joining on short-term contracts while diminishing the "honour" of a profession which places extraordinary demands on young men. The Government's yearning for financial savings runs the risk of reducing the honour of a profession, the stability of a society and the safety of a country.

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A 'man's Parliament' striving for an inclusive India

Despite an encouraging start in the 1950s, its discourse, communication and laws now are a concern

RITIKA JAJOO & GAUTAM GANESH

In 1952, when the Indian Republic held its first Parliamentary session, 39 strong, intelligent, and passionate women leaders sat in the hallowed halls of power, challenging a centuries-old tide of men's dominance over the polity.

A slide from the initial years

At a time when women formed only 1.7% of the total members of the United States Congress and 1.1% of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, India was leading the way in the fight towards more inclusive world democracies with 5.5% women representation. The struggle for India's Independence can never be detached from the contributions of thousands of our women across profession, class, caste, and religion. A testament to their invaluable contribution has to be their louder voice in our parliamentary democracy; what happened in 1952 was a highly progressive step, but 70 years hence, it seems we have strayed from that path.

Despite a woman Prime Minister, a President, and a relatively higher percentage of women parliamentarians when compared to some of the other mature democracies in the past, our struggle with inclusivity has not eased. Due to systemic issues, Parliament continues to alienate women. The number of women representatives is still considerably small, but even more subtly, Parliament as a workspace continues to be built exclusively for men.

India has witnessed a burgeoning movement for gender inclusivity during the past few years. The Supreme Court judgment (*National Legal Services Authority vs Union of India*, 2014) on gender identity has given the movement greater impetus. In solidarity, citizens have begun asserting their gender identity by specifying their personal pronouns (she/her, he/his, they/them, etc.). Parliament, being the pinnacle of law-making and the symbolic centre of our democratic aspirations, must reflect this change too. However, the matter seems to have largely escaped the notice of the Legislature.

Not gender neutral

A closer look at our parliamentary discourse and communication reveals a concerning and disconcerting absence of gender-neutral language. For instance, after 75 years of Independence, and 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', Parliament often refers to women in leadership positions as Chairmen and party men.

In the Rajya Sabha, the Rules of Procedure continue to refer to the Vice-President of India as the ex-officio Chairman, stemming from the lack of gender-neutral language in the Constitution of India. Additionally, references to inherently masculine pronouns are made over 150 times in the former and 600 times in the latter. The alarming degree of usage of masculine pronouns assumes a power structure biased towards men. This tends to manifest itself in parliamentary debates, for instance, when a senior woman MP from Tamil Nadu was referred to as "Chairman madam" in the Lok Sabha during last year's winter session.

V.V. KRISHNAN

The issue further extends to law-making. In the last decade, there have hardly been any gender-neutral Acts. Acts have made references to women not as leaders or professionals (such as policemen), but usually as victims of crimes.

The root of such instances lies with a gender-conforming Constitution. In its present state, the Constitution reinforces historical stereotypes that women and transgender people cannot be in leadership positions, such as the President and the Vice-President of India, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Governor of States, or a judge. It is not a criticism of the Constitution but of the failure of the many Union Governments which did not take the initiative of amending it. In the past, amendments have been brought about to make documents gender neutral. In 2014, under the leadership of the then Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Meira Kumar, the Rules of Procedure of the Lok Sabha were made entirely gender neutral. Since then, each Lok Sabha Committee Head has been referred to as Chairperson in all documents. This initiative is proof that amending legal documents to make them inclusive for all genders is an attainable goal if there is a will.

Despite certain course corrections, both Houses of Parliament and Central Ministries have failed in one common aspect. In a compilation of ministerial replies to questions from the 17th Lok Sabha so far for 75 women Parliamentarians, it was found that 84% of the answers that used salutations (sir/madam) referred to women Parliamentarians as 'sir'. During the 15th Lok Sabha, when we had a woman Speaker, only about 27% of the answers made this error. However, there is no indication of a clear reason for such lapses, either due to pure administrative errors or ignorance of the rules of addressal.

In other countries

Internationally, even mature democracies that legalised universal suffrage after India, such as Canada (1960 for Aboriginal women), Australia (1962 for Indigenous women), and the United States (1965 for women of African-American descent), have now taken concrete measures towards gender-inclusive legislation and communication. Canada's Department of Justice has guidelines for using gender-neutral language in all forms of legislation and legal documentation; the Australian government has incorporated gender-neutrality in its drafting Style Manual; the U.K.'s House of Commons declared in 2007 that all laws would be drafted gender-neutrally.

When Parliament and government offices reinforce gender biases in their communication, stereotypical language in reference to women and transgender people becomes more palatable to the rest of the country. The country's leaders must send the right message for citizens to follow. They can and must begin with an amendment to the Constitution and the entire reservoir of laws.

Moving ahead

Once the language is corrected, the entire country, including Parliament, can focus on the deeper issues of the aspirations and growth of its woman workforce. In 2018, the U.K. Parliament conducted a gender audit to understand its culture, environment, and policies as a workspace. If the report is any indication as to what might also be the scenario in the Indian Parliament, with an even lesser number of women employees, it opens questions about whether there is a single, transparent appointment and promotion process for women staff in Parliament, and whether their professional growth is being hindered by other issues such as harassment and domestic responsibilities.

In the 21st century, when people of all genders are leading the world with compassion, strength and ambitions, the Indian Parliament needs to reflect on its standing. Recognition and correction of past errors through amendments to rulebooks, laws, and the Constitution are just starting points, and must lead to sensitivity, equal treatment, and appreciation for the people of India, regardless of gender.

This article has also been co-authored by Pallavi Baraya and Devak Namdhari. The four writers are former Legislative Assistants to Members of Parliament (LAMP) Fellows

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Agnipath aftermath

Some of the tweaks to the Agnipath scheme – an afterthought – are too little a concession to calm the anger of frustrated job aspirants. Unless their principal grievance of a drastically reduced tenure of four years for 75% of such men without any post-release benefits is withdrawn and tenure rules existing till now are restored, the agitations are only likely to intensify. Even from the military point of view, such radical changes in the recruitment rules seem totally unwarranted. Letting such trained soldiers go home after barely four years of service does not make any military sense either. The least the Government can do is to suspend the scheme.

S.K. CHOUDHURY,
Bengaluru

Bulldozer politics

When lawmakers turn lawbreakers, as is happening in Uttar Pradesh, the judiciary is probably the only hope left for the citizenry. But, are mere declarations by the judiciary sufficient to rein in an executive which is trampling on the life, liberty and property of citizens with impunity? How does one hold officials who are flouting laws accountable? In the current context in the country, Uttar Pradesh is perceived to be a laboratory of majoritarianism to perfect techniques to marginalise the minorities. One shudders to think of the day when bulldozers start rolling out to other parts of the country.

MANOHAR ALEMBATH,
Kannur, Kerala

In search of livelihoods and loved ones

For Sri Lanka's north, whose economy was already set back by war and poor recovery, the current economic downturn is proving debilitating. **Meera Srinivasan** reports on the affected people, especially women who are juggling jobs, housework and care, while persisting with their struggle for justice

Working women are among the worst affected by Sri Lanka's crippling economic crisis. A group of women from Kayts, Jaffna, employed in a crab factory, who have had no employment for weeks. (Below): Families which have suffered enforced disappearance of youth have put up pictures of their missing sons and daughters on a wall in a room in Kilinochchi, where they protest every day, seeking answers and demanding justice. • MEERA SRINIVASAN

In March this year, women of Thambaddy village were thanking their stars for the good crab season. It ensured they were employed throughout the month at the local crab factory. Those who put in longer hours made some extra money that helped them cope with the spiralling cost of essentials. Barely three months later, residents of this coastal village in Kayts island, off the northern Jaffna peninsula and connected to it by a causeway, are on the brink of starvation.

As Sri Lanka faces acute shortages of food, fuel, LPG, and medicine in the midst of a crushing economic downturn, people here have witnessed their livelihoods vanish. With no kerosene available in the market, the men are unable to take their boats out to sea to fish. And without the catch, the women who make a living by removing crab shells are jobless. So are other villagers who subsist on allied livelihoods such as cleaning, transporting or selling the fish locally. While most of the island's southern fishermen use large boats that run on diesel, 90% of those living in the north use small boats that run on kerosene. As of today, neither fuel is available.

"In May, the factory only offered us work on nine days," says Sugathevan Sailathevi of the early yet sure signs of a rapid breakdown of their rural economy, still beaten years after the civil war in the Tamil-majority region ended in 2009. Poverty and joblessness were entrenched in the local economy well before this crisis arrived to make things worse. Families here were displaced at least twice during the war. Many moved all the way to Mullivaikkal on the north-eastern coast, the site of the final, gory battle between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the armed forces. They witnessed scores of fellow Tamil civilians perish in the shelling, or forcibly disappear, with their whereabouts not known till date.

Sailathevi's husband has been unwell and unable to work after he was assaulted by soldiers during the war, not uncommon among Tamil civilians who the army assumed had links with militant groups. Since then, she has single-handedly raised four daughters. The family's enduring economic hardships forced her two older daughters to discontinue their education. Now, they too work in the crab factory with their mother. Together, the three women run the household and support the education of the two younger girls. "This job was everything to us," Sailathevi says, fighting tears. As post-war reconstruction efforts of successive governments have evidently failed to sustain livelihoods and durably revive the regional economy, the sole factory in this isolated village is precious. And its closure, understandably devastating.

Over the last two months, the family has been surviving on one meal a day. "We just can't go on without jobs. That is our only source of income," Sailathevi says, sitting in the verandah of her friend's modest home, minutes away from the factory whose tall, metallic gates are closed.

For women like her, each day of the job matters as wages are tied to the number of days of labour. The women must work at least 25 days to be eligible for a basic monthly pay of LKR 16,500

(roughly ₹3,590), as they boost Sri Lanka's lucrative crab trade. Rarely affordable to locals, Jaffna crabs are a delicacy and make up about 10% of the island's seafood export basket. In 2021, the island netted $318 million, a record high, from seafood exports when foreign reserves were fast depleting due to a balance of payments crisis. The 120 women employed at the factory must work all day, standing in a heavily air-conditioned room, to make LKR 640 (about ₹140) for the day, if they manage to reach the target of 4 kg of crab meat. Their wage is much like the scanty meat – just about 20 grams per crab – that they scrape off the hard-shelled creatures, toiling long hours.

"The work is not easy, but it has been vital for us, so we can't complain," says a young worker, Tharmaraja Thavapriya, underplaying the difficulties of the job and unaware of her contribution to the national economy. Be it tea or garment exports, or remittances from domestic workers in West Asian countries, all major foreign exchange earning sectors are powered by the labour of women like her.

Self-reliance over aid

In a situation as dire, poor families have only aid to count on, however sporadic it might be. "We went to the sea a few days last week after receiving a few litres of kerosene as Indian aid. It was very helpful. But we cannot live our lives waiting for relief materials every day. The government needs a plan to rescue our livelihoods so we can manage our lives," says C. Sivachelvan, a fisher leader in the village.

Many women voice a similar sentiment, despite the hard, often exploitative, physical labour that their jobs demand. They appreciate humanitarian assistance, but don't think it is sustainable in the long run. They welcome aid, but not at the cost of their autonomy. They seek an enabling economy in which they can either produce if they have the means, or at least sell their labour for a fair wage.

Meanwhile, there are no signs that the government has a plan yet, as Sri Lanka's farmers have desperately been pointing out. A rash policy shift to organic fertilizer last year, although subsequently reversed, made them the early victims of the national crisis. Grappling with a 50% drop in crop yield now, many are unwilling to sow again. The pandemic, the government's damaging policy choices and the rapidly aggravating economic crisis over the last two years have shattered Sri Lanka's two main rural livelihoods – farming and fishing – and slashed domestic production. A few years after becoming self-sufficient in paddy, Sri Lanka is now struggling to find rice for the months ahead. Despite living on an island with enviable marine resources, many Sri Lankans now seldom eat fish, their main or often only source of protein, especially when red meat costs over LKR 2,000 (about ₹435) a kg in the local market. Families say children are losing weight and the elderly take ill more often.

The economic distress is once again pushing poor women to take appallingly high-interest (60%-200%) loans from microfinance companies, known for their predatory terms and aggressive collection strategy. "We know we are paying exorbitant amounts as the interest alone, but who else is ready to trust us with loans," asks Thangarasa Thayalini, a worker at the crab factory. "Without an income, a loan is the only option we have." It is a familiar problem in rural Sri Lanka. Over the last decade, scores of Tamil and rural Sinhalese women agitated for relief from the stifling debt they were entrapped in. Their campaigns pushed former Finance Minister Mangala Samaraweera (2017-19, in the Maithripala Sirisena-Ranil Wickremesinghe administration) to devise programmes that promised debt relief and affordable credit for women. That brought some respite to women then, but is now proving inadequate in the absence of other substantial economic programmes.

Collapse of ecosystem

Barring the roads and the electricity networks that were restored soon after 2009, claims of 'post-war reconstruction and development' mostly remain goals on paper, awaiting more funding, a bureaucratic push, or both. The pervading sense of hopelessness and insecurity in the north and east prompted nearly 100 people to take boats to Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu in the last few months. More recently, the Sri Lankan Navy said it intercepted another 200 Sri Lankans, including dozens from the north and east, who tried migrating "illegally" to a "foreign country" via the sea.

Residents of Shanthapuram village in neighbouring Kilinochchi district say harsh economic conditions seem to be driving many local women to consider jobs as domestic workers in West Asian countries. "These supposed employment agencies could exploit their situation and take huge sums of money from the women, promising them jobs abroad. We are going to see more families breaking up, and children growing up with no one to care for them," says Ganapathy Sathyaseelan, who runs a small grocery store here. With almost all the locals buying essentials on credit from him, he is awaiting payments totalling LKR 3 lakh. "I don't think anyone is in a position to pay," he says, fearing that his own small business might soon fold.

Residents of this village are mostly Malaiyaha Tamils who fled the central and southern parts of the island during the 1983 anti-Tamil pogrom. They relocated in the north, mainly the Vanni, the mainland south of the Jaffna peninsula, only to face incessant, brutal violence in the following decades. Many of their youth initially joined or were later conscripted by Tamil militant organisations, and lost their lives in combat or disappeared in the final stages of the war.

Most earning members of the nearly 900 families in the village are daily wage workers, who find employment in other farms or construction sites in nearby towns and villages. The fuel shortages have made it harder to find jobs, because transport to workplaces is not easily available. About 150 women here have regular jobs at a garment factory nearby, which produces clothes for export. Their wages are tied to the whole team turning up at work. "Even if one of us does not turn up, the entire team stands to lose, so we are under a lot of pressure," says a worker, requesting that she not be named, fearing reprisals from the company. To make it to the morning shift, she now wakes up at 2 a.m. to cook, clean and leave for work on time. "It takes a very long time to cook using firewood. I had only recently started using cooking gas for the first time, thinking it would help me save time. But with the shortages, I'm back to firewood," says the single mother of two. Between her garment factory job, caring for her children and mother-in-law, and housework, the young woman barely has time to rest. "It feels like I am running all the time. What to do," she says, smiling gracefully.

The national economic crisis may have brought people's misery and fury under the global spotlight, but economic progress is only one of the many unfulfilled demands of Tamils living in the north and east. While they brave financial challenges after years of violent dispossession, scores of Tamil women, notably mothers of disappeared youth, have been resolute in their demand for truth and justice. The two are not unrelated. The agony of living without sons and daughters, many of whom were in their late teens when they were disappeared, also means that the families have fewer earning members now.

Struggles old and new

A board in bright yellow hangs outside a small room along A-9, the main highway running up north, in Kilinochchi town. 'Association of the Families of Disappeared' read the bold Tamil letters on it. The walls of dimly lit rooms have not an inch of space left, with printed photographs of the missing youth put up in rows. "Had our children been around at this time, they would be working and supporting our family. Regardless, they would have at least been around," says Yogeswari Vijayalakshmi, one of the protesting mothers. "I don't need gas, or fuel or light. But I need to be alive so I can continue looking for my child."

A total of 133 people who were part of the struggle have died already, according to Kadirgamanathan Kohilavani, leader of the Kilinochchi association, one of many such groups in the north and east. "It is the stress, really. We have been running from pillar to post, testifying before one commission after another, and are still waiting for answers."

Recalling that she rarely stepped out in her youth, "not even to buy a packet of salt", the 51-year-old mother says: "Today, I am ready to go just anywhere for the sake of our children. Colombo, Geneva (United Nations Human Rights Council), wherever. Many of our children surrendered to the army. We have a right to know what happened to them."

Like most other Sri Lankans the mothers too are severely affected by the stifling downturn, and spend long hours queuing up for essentials. "Today a kilo of rice costs 340 rupees. Most of our basic food items are not affordable. We are used to adversity like this, we had to cope with shortages when we were displaced. But it is still very hard," Kohilavani says. Being used to deprivation does not make coping with it again any easier, that too while dealing with haunting memories of loved ones and the anxiety about their whereabouts. "We are all growing older, dealing with ailments, economic hardships, and must also take care of our families. It is hard," she says. In her apprehensions, economic relief and justice do not exist in neat, separate compartments.

Women like her, who have been protesting for nearly 2,000 days despite the pressures of their daily lives, see the current citizens' agitations over the economic crisis, going on for about 70 days in capital Colombo and other southern districts, as somewhat distant, and clearly different. "The southern (Sinhalese) people have come to the streets because they are suffering without gas, food and fuel. I feel for them, but where were they all when our people were killed," she asks.

The Sinhalese community's resistance to the Rajapaksas is unprecedented, just like the economic crisis that sparked it. But it is not a superglue that can instantly seal the deep ethnic divisions, as long as troubling questions linger. Although some Tamil groups have been holding anti-government protests in the north and east as well, customising demands to include accountability, justice and a political solution, the feeling that their southern counterparts let them down in the past frequently surfaces in conversations. "They (Sinhalese) are experiencing a crisis for the first time"; "Maybe they will better appreciate our suffering now"; "Will they stop protesting once the economic crisis lets up?"

Scepticism and fear

Fear is still palpable in the region, well over a decade after the strife ended. The region is starkly more militarised than the south, with armed soldiers manning the many checkpoints in northern towns and villages.

"When you've been beaten so badly, it is only natural to step back, isn't it," says Arulappu Casilda, who is raising her grandchildren in Manthuvil village in Mullaitivu district. Severely affected by the crisis, she too has reduced the family's meat intake: "The children ask me, is this even a meat curry, grandma? But then what do I do. These are times you feed them for hunger, not for nutrition, not for taste."

Many women like her, who head and run their households, are struggling to send their children to school as the crisis worsens. "A copy (notebook) that was 70 rupees two months ago now costs 160. A 10-rupee pencil now costs 40 rupees. How do you tell your child you can't even buy them a pencil," asks Mayuran Ramitha.

Although sceptical of the mass agitations in the country, the women are not cynical. They are willing to give protesters the benefit of the doubt. "We have our concerns about how people in the south ignored the bloodshed here, but I believe that the Sinhalese alone can evict the Rajapaksas from power. For that alone, let them win this. It will help us all," says Vilvarasa Komala.

The distrust of the Sinhalese that is voiced by some Tamils stems from the one-sided narratives that some political leaders push both in the north and south, observes a senior activist in Mullaitivu. "Some in the north deliberately conflate the Sinhala state with the Sinhalese people, knowing well that there were Sinhalese who spoke up for us during the war. Similarly, in the south some leaders repeatedly paint Tamils as 'terrorists'," she says, requesting anonymity. "I have faced repercussions for pointing this out."

She says there is a tendency in the island's south to see the current moment as a purely economic crisis but she contends that is not the case. "Even after the war, how did our governments treat the Tamils and Muslim minority in this country? What did the government do to address the ethnic divide? All their so-called post-war reconciliation efforts were a total failure. Had there been a fundamental political shift, they could have built our economy very differently. We wouldn't be here today."

FROM PAGE ONE

Anger rages against Agnipath in many States

At least two public transport buses were set on fire in Aligarh and several official vehicles were damaged. In neighbouring Jattari, the vehicle of the panchayat chairman was set on fire. The protesters tried to storm into the panchayat office.

Around half-a-dozen police personnel sustained injuries and police vehicles were vandalised in Haryana's Jind amid Statewide protests for second day in a row. The protesters and the police clashed in Faridabad's Ballabhgarh around noon. Seven persons were arrested and several rounded up across the State in connection with the First Information Reports registered for violence and blocking of highways during the protests over the past two days.

Prohibitive orders under Section 144 of the CrPC were imposed in Gurugram and Faridabad restricting free movement and gathering of more than four people. Mobile internet services were suspended in Mahendragarh for 24 hours. Farmer unions in Haryana – Bharatiya Kisan Union (Charuni) and the State unit of the All-India Kisan Sabha – also announced support to the armed forces aspirants' demand for the withdrawal of the Agnipath scheme.

House attacked

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Renu Devi, whose house in Bettiah was vandalised by protesters, said: "The large-scale violence and arson is a handiwork of goons instigated by the Opposition parties, otherwise what else explains the targeted attack on BJP leaders?" In neighbouring district of east Champaran, BJP MLA Vinay Bihari's car was attacked but the driver and the MLA escaped unhurt.

At least three trains stationed at Danapur near Patna were set on fire along with over two dozen vehicles. Incidents of violence by protesting aspirants came from Bhagalpur, Sultanganj, Munger, Khagaria, Aurangabad, Lakhisarai, Gaya, Bihta, Fatuah (in Patna district). Movement of several trains and vehicles on national highways got affected in these districts due to violent protests. The protesting aspirants also attacked and set the BJP office in Madhepura on fire.

The All India Kisan Sabha and the All India Agriculture Workers Union have decided to observe June 21 as protest day against Agnipath. "Historically, youth from the peasant families constitute a major chunk of soldiers in the armed forces. This connection between the peasantry and the armed forces was evident in the open and subtle support expressed by several serving and retired armed personnel to the historic farmers' struggle against the draconian farm laws," said AIKS leaders Hannan Mollah and Ashok Dhawale in a statement. The AITUC, CITU and the HMS issued separate statements condemning the Centre's move.

The Railways said 94 mail and express trains and 140 passenger trains have been cancelled due to the protests and 65 mail and express, and 30 passenger trains were partially cancelled. "Eleven mail and express trains have been diverted. The total number of trains affected so far stands at 340," an official said.

Pak. may get off FATF 'grey list' after on-site check

Continued political commitment to combating terror financing, money laundering has led to significant progress: watchdog

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Pakistan on Friday got a reprieve from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) as the international watchdog announced that the country could be removed from the "grey list" after a visit by a fact-finding team to verify the measures it has taken to deal with terror financing. FATF noted Pakistan's claims of actions to curb terror funding.

The Hindu had earlier reported that Islamabad was confident of a positive outcome from the current FATF Plenary as it believed, it had "completed" the list of tasks that were assigned to it by the global body.

According to sources aware of the process, Pakistan would formally be taken off the "grey list" in October. They said the process really kicked off after the meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto at the UN in May.

On the agenda: Money laundering and terrorist financing issues were discussed at the FATF plenary held in Berlin on Friday. • @FATFNEWS/TWITTER

India's stance

Subsequently, most Western nations and China, who are members of the FATF working group, cleared Pakistan's case at an emergency internal meeting.

As the decision was by consensus, India was not asked to vote on the decision, but New Delhi has been sceptical of Pakistan's commitment to completely end terror safe havens in the country. Officials also pointed to Jammu and Kashmir where, they said, infiltration continued and "small arms and IEDs" were being pushed across the LoC. Agencies were preparing for an "increased threat" in the next few months, the officials added.

"Pakistan continued its relentless efforts towards successful completion of these Action Plans despite many challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan said in a statement after FATF announced a favourable observation about Pakistan's actions.

Officials had told *The Hindu* that Pakistan received support from the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council in getting itself out of the "grey list". Pakistan was brought back on the "grey list" in 2018 which allowed the country to be monitored closely by FATF.

The Ministry said, "Pakistan has covered a lot of ground in the AML/CFT [anti-money laundering and combatting the financing of terrorism and proliferation] domain during implementation of FATF Action Plans. The engagement with FATF has led to the development of a strong AML/CFT framework in Pakistan and resulted in improving our systems to cope with future challenges."

Marcus Pleyer, the President of FATF,

said an on-site inspection by the watchdog in Pakistan would take place before October, and that a formal announcement on Pakistan's removal would follow. He said FATF was praising Islamabad for implementing the organisation's action plans – a clear indication that Pakistan is moving closer to getting off the "grey list".

"Pakistan's continued political commitment to combating both terrorist financing and money laundering has led to significant progress," FATF said in a statement. The country's efforts were sustained, it said and added that Pakistan's "necessary political commitment remains in place to sustain implementation and improvement in the future."

(With agency inputs)

Sonia being treated for respiratory tract infection

She had tested COVID positive recently

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Sharing a health update on Congress President Sonia Gandhi who is undergoing treatment at Sir Gangaram hospital, the Congress on June 17 informed that Ms. Gandhi is being currently treated for a fungal infection in the respiratory tract and underwent a nasal procedure.

In a statement, All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary for communication, Jairam Ramesh said Ms. Gandhi is currently under observation for post-COVID symptoms.

"Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi was admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi, on the afternoon of June 12, 2022 when she developed profuse bleeding from the nose following a recent COVID infection. She was immediately put under treatment and underwent a related follow-up procedure yesterday morning," Mr. Ramesh said.

"A fungal infection in her lower respiratory tract was also detected upon admission. She is currently being treated for it along with other post-COVID symptoms. She continues to be under close observation and treatment," the statement added.

Ms. Gandhi, 75, too has been summoned by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case linked to the National Herald. Ahead of her June 8, questioning, Ms. Gandhi tested COVID positive and asked for another date.

CBI raids Gehlot's brother's premises

The Central agency is investigating a case linked to fertilizer export scam

DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday conducted searches at multiple locations, including the premises of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's brother Agrasain Gehlot, in connection with an alleged fertilizer exports scam that caused a loss of ₹52.80 crore to the exchequer.

"The searches have been carried out in Rajasthan, Gujarat and West Bengal, against 15 accused persons. They include private companies and its directors or proprietors," said a CBI official. Unknown officials of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, and Indian Potash Limited (IPL) are also under the scanner.

The CBI had earlier instituted a preliminary enquiry during which it found that Muriate of Potash (MOP), a restricted item, could be exported only with the prior permission of the Central government. The imported MOP is supplied by the IPL to farmers through its authorised dealers at subsidised rates, and the subsidy is claimed from the government.

Under the scanner: Agrasain Gehlot's farm house in Jodhpur under probe by ED officials in July 2020. • FILE PHOTO

Concealed transaction

The agency came across evidence that MOP had allegedly been exported under the guise of feldspar powder/industrial salt to overseas buyers. In order to conceal the transaction, fictitious purchases of feldspar powder/industrial salt through dealers in Rajasthan and Kolkata were shown by the accused.

During 2007-09, they conspired with unknown officials of the Central Board of Excise and Customs, and IPL to buy and export 24,003 metric tonne of MoP by declaring the consignments as that of industrial salt/feldspar powder.

In 2020, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had carried out searches in the same matter, following the legal action initiated by the Customs Department. It was alleged that Agrasain Gehlot – through his Jodhpur-based company Anupam Krishi – exported MOP at higher rates to countries such as Malaysia and Vietnam.

Plea for IP rights waiver for COVID jabs hits a wall

"We are disappointed with the inadequate outcome on waiving intellectual property for COVID-19 medical tools that resulted from more than 20 months of deliberations," the MSF said. While some wording in the text "mitigated some of the most worrisome elements" of a draft text presented in May 2022, the latest agreement failed overall to offer an effective and meaningful solution to help increase people's access to needed medical tools during the pandemic, as it did not adequately waive intellectual property on all essential COVID-19 medical tools, and did not apply to all countries, the MSF said in a statement.

The measures outlined in the decision will not address pharmaceutical monopolies or ensure affordable access to lifesaving medical tools and will set a negative precedent for future global health crises and pandemics, their statement underlined.

Earlier Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, who led the Indian delegation at the talks, had also publicly expressed disappointment. "Some of the countries who are opposing this, in a way, they have almost clearly hinted and indicated that IP rights are extremely important. We are flowing with the wind only because of the international pressure, but on diagnostics and therapeutics there is no way we are going to yield," he said.

EC wants people to run from one seat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Reviving a nearly two-decade-old proposal, the Election Commission has made a fresh push for amending law to bar people from contesting from more than one seat and has said that if it cannot be done, then a hefty fine should be imposed on those vacating one of the constituencies and forcing a bypoll.

In a recent interaction with the Legislative Secretary in the Law Ministry, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar made this push for the reform first proposed in 2004. As electoral law stands today, a candidate is permitted to contest an election from two different constituencies in an election.

54% of income of eight parties went to BJP, says ADR report

Out of the total ₹1,373.78 crore income, BJP had ₹752.33 cr.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The BJP continued to outearn and out-spend all other national parties in 2020-2021, with 54% of the income of the eight national political parties going to the BJP, a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) said on Friday.

The ADR analysed the annual audited reports submitted to the Election Commission by the BJP, the Congress, the Communist Party of India, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the Trinamool Congress, the Bahujan Samaj Party, the Nationalist Congress Party and the National Peoples' Party.

Out of the total declared income of ₹1,373.78 crore, the BJP had ₹752.33 crore, while the Congress was second with ₹285.76 crore, followed by the CPI(M) with ₹171.04 crore. The Trinamool Congress declared ₹74.41 crore in income, followed by the BSP (₹52.46 crore), the NCP (₹34.92 crore), the CPI (₹2.12 crore) and the National Peoples Party (₹69 lakh).

While the BJP spent 82% of its income, the Congress spent 73.14% of its earnings. The Trinamool Congress's expenditure was 78.10% over its earnings.

Primary source

The primary source of income for the BJP was voluntary contributions, while the Congress got the most of its income from issuing coupons and the BSP from bank interest, the report said. The BJP spent the most of its total expenditure on "election/general propaganda" (₹421.01 crore); the Congress on "election expenditure"; and the NCP spent 84% of its total expenditure on "administration and general expenses".

The BJP, the Trinamool Congress and the Congress declared income from electoral bonds worth ₹22.38 crore, ₹42 crore and ₹10.07 crore respectively.

The ADR report observed that all the parties submitted their audit reports past the deadline, ranging from 59 days (the BSP) late to 201 days (the BJP).

India backs China's plan for joint border activity

Solidarity-2023 to have all SCO nations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India has supported an initiative by China to conduct a "joint border operation" in 2023 of all member countries of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) that includes Russia, Pakistan and Central Asian countries.

The border operation called 'Solidarity-2023' will be organised by China, a statement by the Border Security Force (BSF) said.

Exchanging information

The BSF hosted the 21st meeting of Experts' Group and Border Security Conference of SCO countries from June 15-17 that was attended by China, Pakistan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)-SCO.

The statement issued at the meeting said that the participants exchanged information reflecting assessments of the situation on the State borders of the SCO member states, trends and forecasts of its development.

"The results of the Joint Border Operation 'Solidarity-2019-2021' carried out in 2021 by the border services of the competent authorities of the SCO member states were discussed and highly appreciated. The plan for the preparation and conduct of the Joint Border Operation 'Friendship Border - 2022' this year was reviewed and approved," it said.

China opposes labelling LeT convict a terrorist

Asked if the refusal to designate the LeT deputy chief would further strain India-China ties, Mr. Wang said China hoped that "India and China can work together and promote the relations to be more sound and stable", without elaborating on the question.

On how the action squared up with the BRICS NSA meeting hosted by Chinese State Councillor Yang Jiechi on Wednesday, which committed to closer cooperation on combating terrorism, Mr. Wang said he had already shared China's position quite clearly, adding, "I won't go back to that".

At the BRICS NSA meeting, Ajit Doval had specifically raised the need to cooperate on fighting terrorism "without reservations".

Waiting till last day

China's "technical hold" on adding Makki's name to the UNSC list could hold up the process for up to six months, after which a new proposal would have to be introduced to designate him. The proposal to list Makki under the UN Security Council sanctions regime was circulated to all the members of the UNSC's 1267 Committee under a "no-objection procedure" on June 1 with a deadline of 16 June, the sources said, indicating that China waited until the last possible day to raise objections to the listing.

According to the UNSC resolution on designating terrorists linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State, a designated terrorist cannot access funds, buy weapons or travel outside the jurisdiction. Pakistan has been held on the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force for several years, including most recently since June 2018, for its failure to effectively prosecute and convict terrorists on the UNSC list, as it is obliged to.

(With inputs from Ananth Krishnan)

BJP appoints 14-member panel to oversee Presidential poll

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Friday appointed Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat as head of a 14-member "management team" for the upcoming Presidential election to coordinate with State units and allies for the same. This comes after the BJP empowered party president J.P. Nadda and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to reach out to political parties to consult on the poll.

BJP general secretaries Vinod Tawde and C.T. Ravi are the co-conveners of the team. Another general secretary, Tarun Chugh, is also part of the team, according to a release issued by the party. Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Sarbananda Sonowal, Arjun Meghwal and Bharati Pawar are also members of the team.

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

The other members are BJP's national vice-president D. K. Aruna, national secretary Rituraj Sinha, national president of women's wing Vanati Srinivasan, national spokesperson Sambit Patra and Assam unit vice-president Rajdeep Roy.

Hopeful of victory

According to sources, this management team will coordinate with all State units of the BJP and its allies for the presidential election and is also expected to guide its elected voting representatives on the voting process.

With numbers on its side, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance is expected to ensure the victory of its candidate in the Presidential election scheduled to be held on July 18 with results to be announced on July 21.

Presidential election is an ideological battle: Yechury

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Presidential election is about saving India's secular democratic character and in the 75th year of India's Independence, it is a battle of Gandhi vs Godse, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, he said that the Opposition might not have the numbers but this is an ideological fight and crucial because it precedes the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. "It is an opportunity for the Opposition to send a message to the people of this country on what we stand for," Mr. Yechury said. Barring the 1977 election, every Presidential poll has seen a contest between the Opposition and the ruling party.

Sitaram Yechury

And this is why the Left parties, he said, is supporting the candidature of former West Bengal Governor Gopal Krishna Gandhi. "He has a vast experience in public life and he represents an ideology that stands in contrast to the ruling party's idea of India," he said.

Mr. Yechury said that it is unfortunate that political parties such as the TRS and the AAP did not participate in the joint Opposition meeting held on June 15, but added that ultimately the position of these parties viz-a-viz the Opposition will be decided on the basis of which bloc they vote for.

He accused the government of not taking the initiative to hold a dialogue on the Presidential candidate. Mr. Yechury dismissed the calls made by BJP president J.P. Nadda and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to the political parties.

BJP leaders, Army chief mount defence for Agnipath scheme

Both Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah emphasise upper age limit relaxation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Amid escalating protests and violence over the 'Agnipath' scheme which fundamentally revamped the recruitment of soldiers into the armed forces, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Friday that the one-time waiver, increasing the upper age limit of recruitment to 23 years for the first cycle, indicates that "the government cares for our youth."

Army Chief Gen. Manoj Pande told news agency *ANI* that training of first Agniveers will begin in December 2022 and active service will commence in the middle of 2023.

"The government has announced a one time upper age limit relaxation for the recruitment process through Agnipath scheme for 2022 to 23 years. The relaxation of age indicates that the government cares for our youth. Department of Military Affairs, MoD and Services are committed to commence the recruitment process at the earliest, we invite youth of our country to join Armed Forces and serve the nation through Agnipath," Mr. Singh said in a message.

> This decision will provide an opportunity for many of our young, energetic and patriotic youth who, despite the COVID pandemic, were preparing to join the recruitment rallies, which couldn't be completed in the last two years due to COVID restrictions
>
> GENERAL MANOJ PANDE
> Army chief

Speaking on the one-time age relaxation, Army Chief Gen. Manoj Pande said it will provide an opportunity for many youth who were preparing to join the recruitment rallies but were not held due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Late on Thursday evening, the government announced a decision to grant a one-time waiver, increasing the entry age of recruitment to 23 years, for the recruitment cycle of 2022 given that it was not possible to undertake recruitment during the last two years.

"This decision will provide an opportunity for many of our young, energetic and patriotic youth who, despite the COVID pandemic, were preparing to join the recruitment rallies, which couldn't be completed in the last two years due to COVID restrictions," Gen. Pande in a message released by the Army.

"The schedule of recruitment process will be announced shortly. We call upon our youth to avail this opportunity for joining the Indian Army as Agniveers," he further added.

The one-time waiver for age relaxation would facilitate entry of those youth who could not join the Armed Forces – Army, Navy or Air Force – due to temporary stoppage of recruitment during the coronavirus pandemic, the Indian Navy said.

"The Indian Navy is ready to welcome the first batch of *Agniveers* in our service, for which the recruitment process will start very soon. We call upon all young men and women of our country to join the Indian Navy as *Agniveers* and contribute to National security and nation building," the Navy said in a statement.

Bright future: Shah

Meanwhile, in an attempt to allay the concerns of the protesters, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the decision to increase the upper age limit for joining in defence services through Agnipath scheme will benefit a large number of youth.

"The recruitment process in the Army was affected due to the corona pandemic for the last two years, so Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji has taken a sensitive decision, showing concern for the youth, to give them two years concession in the age limit from 21 years to 23 years in the first year of Agnipath scheme," Shah said in a tweet in Hindi.

A large number of youth will benefit by this decision. Through the Agnipath scheme, they will move forward in the service to the country and their bright future, he said. "I thank @narendramodi ji," he added. The government increased the upper age limit for recruitment under the Agnipath scheme to 23 years from 21 years for 2022 for the enrolment of soldiers into Army, Navy and Air Force.

Trade unions pledge support to stir

Government is attempting to 'contractualise' defence work, they say

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Central trade unions, farmers' organisations affiliated with the Samyukt Kisan Morcha and outfits of agriculture workers pledged support to the nationwide protests against the Agnipath scheme of recruitment in defence forces. The organisations equated the protests with farmers' struggle against the three farm laws and urged the Centre to withdraw Agnipath the way it repealed the three Acts. They have also decided to draft a joint strategy in support of the agitations at national level.

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions expressed serious concern and shock at the move for recruitment in armed forces of the country on fixed term contract without any provisions of pension. "Such a retrograde move is going to severely compromise as well as negatively affect the quality of employment and efficiency of our armed forces, militating against the country's security as a whole and also the quality of employment, determination and professionalism, much to the detriment of our national interests," CITU general secretary Tapan Sen said.

All India Trade Union Congress general secretary Amarjeet Kaur said the string of policy decisions by the Narendra Modi government over the past eight years had put ordinary people to great sufferings. "The list is unending and the result is an ever-widening gap between the rich and the poor, unbearable price rise, all time high unemployment and blatant lawlessness by the government itself using bulldozers against suspects," she said.

Harbhajan Singh Sidhu, General Secretary, Hind Mazdoor Sabha said such a scheme was being launched when the unemployment and inflation had reached their peak. "The decision is cruel joke on unemployed youth, another step to encourage a 'contractualisation' or precarious work. It will induct an ill-trained and ill-motivated soldier and will discharge a disappointed and unhappy youth, who would not be termed ex-serviceman and will not be given any benefits," he said.

On the draw

Cong. warns of scheme meeting fate of farm laws, demands roll back

Congress MPs spar on Twitter as Tewari supports new recruitment policy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Amid widespread protests against the Agnipath scheme for recruitment in the armed forces, the Congress on Friday demanded its immediate rollback and said that it is neither in country's interest nor security.

The party also demanded that the government convene either a special session of Parliament or an all-party meeting to discuss the armed forces recruitment issue and build a bipartisan consensus on the matter.

Rajya Sabha member and party general secretary (organisation) K. C. Venugopal also wrote to the chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence to immediately convene a meeting and seek the opinion of defence experts on the issue.

Addressing a press conference at the Congress headquarters, party spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Deepinder Singh Hooda said the scheme should be rolled back immediately and a three-year age relaxation should be given for youth who could not join the armed forces due to delays in recruitment.

Erupting in fury: Protesters against Agnipath scheme block road near Patna on Friday. • PTI

"The government should immediately roll back the Agnipath scheme. It is neither in favour of national security nor national interests and certainly not in favour of the country's youth," he told reporters at a press conference. Mr. Hooda also urged the protesters to be patient and not resort to violence and assured that the Congress would take up their cause.

"Don't make the same mistake as you (government) did during the farmers' agitation which saw the death of over 700 protesting farmers. Please withdraw the scheme immediately," Mr. Hooda said, adding that the BJP gets fascinated by "imported schemes" without paying attention to Indian conditions.

In his letter to Jual Oram, Mr. Venugopal said, "There is a widespread anger among the youth with regard to this scheme, particularly due to its temporary nature, lack of pension and health care benefits." Mr. Venugopal said the scheme can damage long standing military traditions and there are apprehensions about the proposed six month training period to prepare a soldier.

The issue also saw Lok Sabha member Manish Tewari spar with his colleague Saptagiri Ulaka on social media after Mr. Ulaka pointed out that Mr. Tewari's opinion that weighs in favour of the new scheme should be seen as an individual opinion and not the Congress party's view.

"Dear @saptagiriulaka ji, You are valued colleague in Lok Sabha. However May I respectfully point out that when you may have been running around in your knickers my dear friend I was actively working for @INCIndia. I would request you to kindly refrain from these snide tweets," Mr. Tewari tweeted in response to Mr. Ulaka.

Among other Opposition leaders, CPI general secretary D Raja tweeted, "We are witnessing our demographic dividend turning into a demographic disaster. Our youth is unemployed and restive. Modi ji should understand this and stop forcing our youth on the 'Path of Fire'!"

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann also condemned the decision of the Centre to implement the scheme to recruit youth into the defence forces, terming it as a retrogressive step.

WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE (R&B), BALASORE
e-mail:- seec_bls@rediffmail.com
Government of Odisha **"e" Procurement Notice**
Bid Identification No. CCEEC-05/2022-23
No.2607 / Dt.08.06.2022

Nature of work	:-	Building Works
Number of works	:-	06 (Ten) No Buildings
Amount put to Tender	:-	Rs.148.91 Lakh to Rs.312.49 Lakh
Class of Contractor	:-	"B" Class / "A" Class / "Special"
Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal.	:-	Dt.00.06.2022 at 10.00 AM
Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal	:-	Dt.04.07.2022 up to 05.00 PM
Date of opening of bid	:-	Dt.05.06.2022 at 11.00 AM
Name & address of the Office inviting bid	:-	Chief Construction Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B), Balasore.

The bidders have to participate in **ONLINE** bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http//tendersodisha.gov.in" .
All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.
B-283: Sd/- R.Rout, Chief Construction Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B), Balasore
OIPR-34026/11/0007/2223

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
Ernakulam Junction
TENDER NOTICE NO. DCE-II-CN-ERS-OT-02-2022
DATED:16.06.2022
Name of the work: Ernakulam Marshalling Yard-Proposed "L" Catwalk 325 m long at eastern side of pit line no.3-Balance work for drainage between Pit line no.3 & Rd-4
Tender Value: Rs. 45.82 lakhs
Completion Period: 2 months
Date of Opening:
11.07.2022 @ 15.00 hrs
Complete details & tender document will be available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**
Dy. Chief Engineer, Con/Ernakulam Jn.
Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

राष्ट्रीय समुद्र प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OCEAN TECHNOLOGY
(पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India)
एन आई ओ टी कैम्पस वेलचेरी-तांबरम मेन रोड, पल्लिकरणै, चेन्नै-600 100.
NIOT Campus, Velachery-Tambaram Main Road, Pallikaranai, Chennai – 600 100
Phone : 91-44-6678 3300 E-mail: recruitment@niot.res.in
ADVERTISEMENT No. NIOT/E&P/02/2022 (Consultants)
Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for preparation of panel for engagement as Consultants on Contract basis with proven expertise. Details of service proposed, requisite qualification, experience, etc., are as in the document uploaded on the website link **https://www.niot.res.in.** Interested experts possessing the requirements in the said document may send proposal to the Director, National Institute of Ocean Technology on or before **30th June, 2022** subscribing the envelope with name of the post for which application is furnished.
Director

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE (NaCSA)
(MPEDA, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)
ISO 9001-2015
D.No.70-1A-6/1, Vasireddy Vaari Street, Near Municipal High School, Ramanayya Peta, KAKINADA-533005, Ph: 0884-2350655, ISO 9001-2015
REQUIRES FOR MAHARASHTRA STATE
Name of the Post: Field Managers: 01 No
Qualification: B.F.Sc. or B.Sc in Biological Science preferably in Zoology / Aquaculture Fisheries with 2 years experience.
Last date for receiving applications through online is 2nd July'2022
- Appointment is purely on contract basis.
- Eligible candidates may apply online

For further details, please visit our website: www.nacsampeda.org.in

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur-760004
e-mail id : se_sicbam@yahoo.com
e - Procurement Notice No. ACE, RBB- 08 / 2022-23
1. Type of Work : Flood Control Works.
2. Total No. of Works : 03 (Three) Nos.
3. Amount put to Tender : Rs.610.70 lakh to 208.96 lakhs
4. Period of Completion : 11 (Eleven) to 17 (Seventeen) Calendar months

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Bid Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Availability & Submission of Bid On-line
Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur	ACE,RBB,(BEID)-09/2022-23	610.70	From 21.06.2022, 10.00 AM to 05.07.2022, 5.00 PM
	ACE,RBB,(BEID)-10/2022-23	495.55	
	ACE,RBB,(BEID)-11/2022-23	208.96	

Date of opening of the Technical Bid:- 06.07.2022 at 11.30 A.M.
Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website "www.tendersodisha.gov.in".
A-327: Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur
OIPR-32411/11/0012/2223

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Electrical (General), Construction, Chennai Egmore
Tender Notice No. E-CN-MDU-EOT2-RT-2022-23 dated 15.06.2022
For and on behalf of the President of India, The Dy Chief Elec Engineer/Gen/Cons/S. Rly/ Egmore, Chennai - 600008 invites E-Tender for the following work.
Name of work: Madurai - Bodinayakkanur - Gauge Conversion work - I)Electrification and Power supply arrangements to newly proposed Goods Platform, Goods shed and Other Service Buildings at TENI Railway Station: ii) Electrification and Power supply arrangements to proposed Running Room, Pump House, JE/AC office, TRP (RPF) Building and Type II Quarters at Bodinayakkanur Railway Station; iii) Provision of Tri-lingual LED Signage Station Name board for Station buildings and Residual works in Station buildings, Approach road and LC gate lodges in Madurai - Bodinayakkanur section-Works contract.
Tender Notice No. and Date: E-CN-MDU-EOT2-RT-2022-23 dt.15.06.2022
1. Period of completion: 12 Months
2. Approximate cost of work: Rs. 2,32,87,415.59
3. Cost of tender form: Nil
4. Earnest Money deposited: Rs. 2,66,400
5. Tender closing date: 08.07.2022
Complete details can be seen **www.ireps.gov.in**
Dy. Chief Elec. Engineer General/Construction/Chennai
Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. KARUR Dist. Tamil Nadu
Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
222313 001579	Procurement of Spreader Roll for Wire & Press PM #2	04.07.2022
222313 001580	Procurement of Imported Burnt Lime for production of Wet Precipitated Calcium Carbonate by OMYA	04.07.2022
222313 001619	Enlistment of Vendors for supply of Sulphuric Acid, Sulphur dioxide and Ortho Phosphoric Acid	05.07.2022
Email:	222313001579 - purchase.imp@tnpl.co.in 222313001580 - purchase.packing@tnpl.co.in 222313001619 - purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website only. Detailed Terms & conditions, Tender fee, EMD are available in tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in.
DIPR/2853/Tender/2022
TNPL – Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper
"சோதனை உடலு வந்திடும் நுண்ணோர், சாதனை புரிந்து எரிந்திடும் பண்பினால்"

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA, NEW DELHI
RECUITMENT OF JUNIOR COURT ASSISTANT
Online applications from eligible candidates are invited for the post of Junior Court Assistant (Group 'B', Non- Gazetted Post) placed in Level 6 of Pay Matrix with initial Basic Pay of **Rs. 35,400/-**. The approximate Gross Salary as per existing rate of allowance including HRA comes to **Rs. 63,068/-** per month (pre-revised pay scale PB-2 with Grade Pay of **Rs. 4200/-**). The details about eligibility conditions etc. can be downloaded from Supreme Court Website **www.sci.gov.in.**
Place : New Delhi
Dated : 18.06.2022
(Deepak Jain)
Registrar (Recruitment)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, KENDRAPARA
At : Ichhapur, Post : Shree Baladevjew, Email : eerwsskendrapara@gmail.com
Identification No.RWS/103/2021-2022
Letter No. 4352 / Dated 13/06/22
8th Corrigendum
This corrigendum has been made for the NIT-103 invited online vide this office letter No. 1518 / Dated. 04.03.2022 with date for selling, closing, clarification and opening which was on dt.20.06.2022 (selling date), 05.07.2022 (closing date), 22.06.2022 (clarification date) 06.07.2022 (opening date) as per 7th corrigendum will remain valid. **But there is need of correction for Estimated Cost of Tender as follows.**

Sl No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Approx.) Rs. in Lakhs	EMD to be deposited online	Class of Bidder	Cost of Tender Paper	Period of completion
1.	Execution of 40 LPCD Retrofitting RPWS Scheme to **Parakula and Jamapada,** on clubbed up mode under **Marshaghai** Block in the District of Kendrapara. **(JJM Funds)**	₹ 339.44	Nil	"A" and "Special"	Rs. 10000	360 days
2	Execution of 40 LPCD Retrofitting RPWS Scheme to **Kharianta of Mahakalapada and Palshyot of Marshaghai,** on clubbed up mode in the District of Kendrapara. **(JJM Funds)**	₹ 284.30	Nil	"B" & "A"	Rs. 10000	330 days

O-479: (Er.B.K.Nayak) Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Kendrapara
OIPR-25004/11/0061/2223

TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD
Nanthancode, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 003
Phone: 0471-2314288. E-Mail: dcotdb@gmail.com
Website: www.travancoredevaswomboard.org
TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD INVITES E-TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF:
Dry Rice, Raw Rice, Jaggery Powder, Sugar Candy, Black Raisins, Cardamom, Dry Ginger, Cumin seed, Butter Paper Bag, Pure Ghee, Ghee Pouch, Carton Box, BOP Tape, Composite Cans, Easy Open Lids at Sabarimala & Green Gram Dal, Beaten Rice at Pamba in connection with the festival period 1198 ME (2022-2023) of Sree Dharmasastha Temple, Sabarimala.
E-Tender Closing Date : **04-07-2022 - 05.00 PM**
E-Tender Opening Date : **06-07-2022 - 11.00 AM**
Venue : **Office of The Commissioner, Travancore Devaswom Board, Thiruvananthapuram**
Detailed e-tender notifications and special instructions to the bidders are available on **www.travancoredevaswomboard.org**
For the submission of tender visit the website : **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
ROC NO : 4/22/Sab.
Dated : 16-06-2022
Sd/- **DEVASWOM COMMISSIONER**
(For and behalf of Travancore Devaswom Board)

CENTRE FOR MATERIALS FOR ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY (C-MET)
(Scientific Society under Min. of Electronic & Information Technology)
Govt. of India, Panchwati, Pune - 411 008
Advertisement No. 002/2022
C-MET invites online applications from Indian nationals possessing excellent academic record and relevant work experience for the following Group A posts in its Laboratories at Pune, Hyderabad and Thrissur on Direct Recruitment /Transfer (Absorption)/Deputation basis :-

Sl. No.	Name of Post & PML	No of posts	Reservation	Mode	Upper Age Limit#
1.	Scientist 'E' PML -13	01	UR	DR/ToA	50
2.	Scientist 'D' PML -12	02	01-UR, 01-OBC (NCL)	DR/ToA	45
3.	Scientist 'B' PML -10	04	02-UR, 01-ST 01-OBC(NCL), (including 1 post for PwBD	DR	35
4.	Senior Finance Officer PML -11	01	UR	DR/ToA/ Deputation	45
5.	Finance Officer* PML -10	01	OBC (NCL) Reserved for PwBD	DR/ Absorption/ Deputation	35

* Pending approval of GC. # Relaxation as per Govt norms
Last date for receipt of online applications: 5 PM, 15.07.2022
Visit www.cmet.gov.in or www.parikshaworld.com for detailed advertisement.
Sd/-
Registrar

IN BRIEF

Mumbai police in Delhi to serve summons to Nupur

MUMBAI

A Mumbai police team is in Delhi in connection with the probe against now suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma for alleged objectionable comments against Prophet Muhammed, an official said on Friday. She has been summoned to appear before Pydhonie police on June 25 for recording her statement, the official added. PTI

Highest single-day rainfall in Mawsynram

GUWAHATI

Mawsynram in Meghalaya on Friday recorded 1,003.6 mm of rainfall, the highest single-day precipitation ever in June, the Guwahati-based Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) said. Cherrapunjee experienced the third highest rainfall for a 24-hour period in June. The two places together are the rainiest places on earth.

6 religious leaders from Bangladesh blacklisted

GUWAHATI

Six religious leaders and a singer from Bangladesh have been blacklisted in India for engaging in "objectionable activities" in Assam and elsewhere in the country. Their visas had also been cancelled after the Assam government took up their issue with the Centre citing intelligence reports, officials here said.

AIWC issues apology to Gorkha community

GUWAHATI

The All India Women Conference (AIWC) has issued an unconditional apology to the Gorkha community for an objectionable comment by one of its members about the community. The Bharatiya Gorkha Parisangh accepted the apology note and withdrew its decision to take any legal action against the AIWC.

Pakistan to release 20 Indian fishermen

AHMEDABAD

As many as 20 fishermen from Gujarat, who had been captured at sea by Pakistan in the past, will be released and handed over to the Indian authorities on June 20, a state government official said on Friday. These fishermen will be brought to Gujarat following their release, State Director of Fisheries, Nitin Sangwan, said. PTI

ED conducts raids against Satyendra Jain in NCR

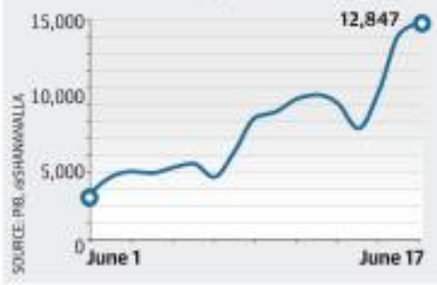
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate is conducting raids at multiple locations in the National Capital Region (NCR) in connection with a money laundering probe against Delhi Minister Satyendra Jain and his associates, officials said on Friday morning. At least 10 residential and business locations are being covered by the ED. PTI

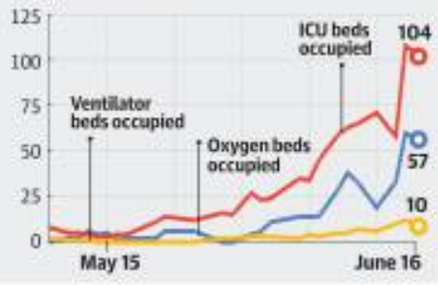
Rising worry | With **12,847 COVID-19 infections** being reported in India on Friday, the case count stayed above the 12,000 mark for the second day in a row. With this, the number of active cases has increased to **63,063,** while 14 fresh fatalities were also reported, according to the Union Health Ministry data. **Maharashtra (20,631)** has the highest number of active cases followed by **Kerala (19,809)**

Cautious approach: Street vendor selling face masks outside of a hospital in Lucknow. • SANDEEP SAXENA

The chart shows the cases recorded in the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. every day from June 1 to June 17, 2022



The chart shows the number of hospital beds earmarked for COVID-19 patients that were occupied in Mumbai



Covaxin shows robust safety in 2-18 age group: Bharat Biotech

'374 adverse events were reported and most of them were mild in nature'

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL), on Friday, announced that COVID-vaccine Covaxin (BBV152) has proven to be safe, well-tolerated, and highly immunogenic in paediatric subjects in phase II/III study. The study, according to the company, has been accepted and published in *Lancet Infectious Diseases*.

The company, in its press release, said that Bharat Biotech had conducted phase II/III, open-label, and multicentre study to evaluate the safety, reactogenicity, and immunogenicity of Covaxin in healthy children in 2-18 years of age group.

"The clinical trial conducted in the paediatric population between June 2021 and September 2021 has shown safety, less reactogenic, and robust immunogenicity. The data was submitted to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) during October 2021, and received a nod for emergency use in children aged 6-18 years," said the release.

Bharat Biotech has a stockpile of over 50 million Covaxin doses ready to be distributed. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Krishna Ella, Chairman and Managing Director, Bharat Biotech, said, "Safety of the vaccine is critical for children. Covaxin has now proven data for safety and immunogenicity in children. We have now achieved our goal of developing a safe and efficacious COVID-19 vaccine for adults and children, for primary immunisation and booster doses, making Covaxin a universal vaccine. It has proven to be a highly safe vaccine based on data from more than 50 million doses administered to children in India. Vaccines are a great preventive tool; the power of vaccines can only be harnessed if used prophylactically."

He added that in the study, no serious adverse event was reported. A total of 374 adverse events were reported, and the majority of adverse events were mild in nature and resolved within a day.

The release also stated that Bharat Biotech has a stockpile of more than 50 million doses of Covaxin ready to be distributed as required.

Won't allow migration of minorities in J&K: Rajnath

'People should maintain social fabric'

PEERZADA ASHIQ
JAMMU

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who concluded his two-day visit of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, said no forcible migration of minorities would be allowed any more and hinted at Assembly election by 2022-end in the Union Territory.

"We have witnessed a migration of minorities in the past. Whether Hindus or Christians, such forcible migration won't be allowed at any cost now," Mr. Singh.

Mr. Singh blamed Pakistan for the recent targeted killings in Kashmir, which have left nine persons dead, including members of the minority communities and non-locals. "Our neighbour is playing a crucial role in sowing the seed of hatred here. From the tribal raid of 1947-48 to the recent targeted killings, these are all foreign conspiracies. We need to defeat this conspiracy. The future of J&K has to be shaped by its people. The neighbouring country cannot digest the fact that India is rising," he said.

Without mentioning any role of regional Muslim leaders in J&K, Mr. Singh said, "The rulers from Ranjit Singh to Gulab Singh and Prem Nath Dogra worked for unity of people in J&K. They are the role models under whom Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists worked together."

The Union Defence minister appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir "to maintain multi-cultural fabric".

"I appeal to people to maintain the social fabric and think above the religious lines. There are forces who are trying to damage the fabric and make efforts to radicalise locals," Mr. Singh said.

Darbhanga blast: probe shows lapses on part of railway staff

Security to be strengthened at parcel booking offices

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

An investigation into last year's bomb blast at the Darbhanga railway station in Bihar (East Central Railway) has exposed serious lapses on the part of parcel booking authorities in Secundrabad (South Central Railway) in not verifying the identity of the consignor/consignee and the contents of the parcel booked.

The accused persons, who gave fake documents to book the consignment containing the explosive on the Secundrabad-Darbhanga special train (Train No. 07007) on June 17, 2021, had conspired to trigger the blast on the moving train.

However, the explosion occurred when the parcel was unloaded at the destination station and was being moved to the godown. Nobody was injured. The National Investigation Agency took over investigation in the case and filed chargesheet against five suspected operatives of the Lashkar-e-Taiba in December last year.

Loophole in procedure

An inquiry conducted by the Railways revealed several lapses and loopholes, forcing the authorities to devise a standard operating procedure (SOP) for booking/delivery of parcels.

Accordingly, an advisory was sent to the General Managers of all Zonal Railways to direct the parcel booking staff to take an attested copy of photo identity proof of the consignor at the time of booking and that of the consignee at the time of delivery.

The Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) was asked to develop a module for the Parcel Management System where the consignor and consignee would get a one-time password (OTP) to authenticate booking/delivery of parcels.

Instructions were given to install a sufficient number of closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras covering the entry/exit of parcel offices and to maintain the footage for at least a month.

Parcel scanners would be established at all booking offices where the consignments would be screened and stamped as "scanned, checked and found in order" by the official on duty.

The parcel booking staff and lease holders were told not to bring any inward consignment within 30 minutes of the scheduled departure of the train.

Soren case: SC refuses to pass interim orders

Court to take case after the holidays

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday declined to pass any interim orders in an appeal by the Jharkhand government challenging a High Court decision upholding the maintainability of a plea seeking CBI probe against Chief Minister Hemant Soren in a money-laundering case.

A Vacation Bench of Justices J.K. Maheshwari and Hima Kohli prima facie said the Jharkhand High Court ought to decide the matter and the top court should not be asked to entertain the case in a piecemeal fashion.

However, the Vacation Bench said the case would be posted before an appropriate Bench of the Supreme Court after the holidays.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the State government, said the case was politically motivated. The State had moved the top court in appeal against the High Court order upholding the maintainability of the PIL petitions seeking investigation against Mr. Soren for alleged irregularities in granting mining leases and the transactions of shell companies said to be owned by his family members and close associates.

Hemant Soren

In its order on June 3, the High Court had concluded that the "writ petitions cannot be thrown away on the ground of maintainability".

ADP to be extended to block, city level: PM

'The programme will help develop districts'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Aspirational districts should be 'inspirational districts' of India, and the Aspirational District Programme (ADP) should be extended to block and city levels, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said.

The ADP, launched in 2018, aims to transform 112 districts that have shown relatively lesser progress in key social areas.

Narendra Modi

"Lauding the success of the Aspirational Districts Programme, the Prime Minister said the government should strive to make these the 'inspirational districts' of India and extend the programme to block and city levels," an official statement said on Thursday.

The Prime Minister was chairing a three-day national conference of chief secretaries at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh. The conference began on June 15.

The statement said the Prime Minister stressed that India's best, young officers should be posted to the aspirational districts to bring about noticeable changes through their creative thinking and fresh ideas. The experience and learnings gained by them while working in these districts would be unparalleled and prove useful for the entire country, the statement said, quoting Mr. Modi.

Mr. Modi said that award-winning retired teachers could also be roped in for training teachers. He suggested that there could be a dedicated TV channel for teachers' training.

Modi to launch maternal nutrition scheme in Gujarat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KEVADIA

On a two-day visit to Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday will launch a scheme on maternal nutrition in the State at an outlay of ₹800 crore.

Under the "Mukhyamantri Matrushakti Yojana", pregnant and lactating mothers will be given 2 kg of chickpeas, 1 kg of tur dal and 1 kg of edible oil free of cost every month from anganwadi centres in Gujarat. An estimated 1.36 lakh women will benefit from the scheme.

The Prime Minister will also disburse around ₹120 crore towards 'Poshan Sudha Yojana', which is now being extended to all tribal beneficiaries in the State. The scheme was being implemented as a pilot project in 10 talukas of five tribal-dominated districts and is now being expanded to 14 tribal-dominated districts. It offers one nutritious meal a day to pregnant and lactating women.

The schemes aim to intervene during the first 1,000 days of a child's life, which is the period from conception till the time the child turns two.

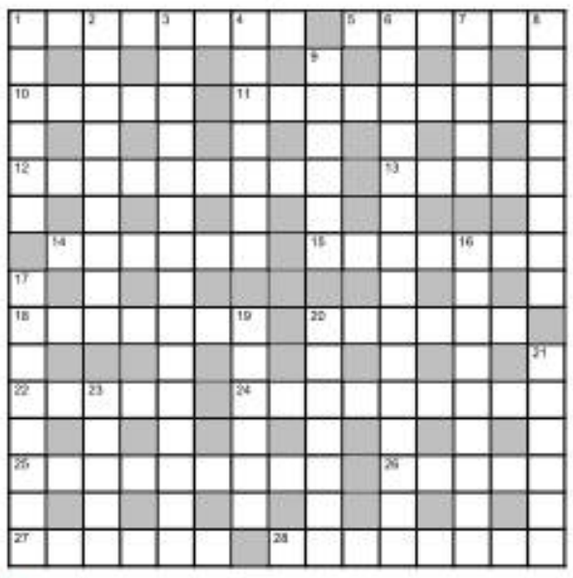
Their objective is to improve infant mortality and maternal mortality rates.

TH CROSSWORD + 13586

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN



ACROSS

1 Tad disturbed about model suffering in a relationship (8)
5 Soldier turned to express contempt about hot Nigerian town (6)
10 Topless beach in Goa, popular once more (5)
11 Vehicle around gala serving up excellent buffet (9)
12 Dr. X involved in treating mother with a foot deformity (9)
13 Article about rebellious boy becoming a tennis pro (5)
14 Brainless group returns in party after scoring ecstasy (6)
15 Celebrity, largely overwhelmed by depression, becoming aloof (7)
18 Vanquishment of most evil right-wing politician (7)
20 Industrial town containing commercial centre in Venice (6)
22 Wealthy husband leaves to acquire the Spanish artefact (5)
24 Doddering initially after drink on island, boyfriend gets stoned (9)
25 Esteemed head of nurses enthralled by a cute doc perhaps (9)
26 Bicycle has good saddle (5)
27 Dropping a tea tray nervously in convention (6)
28 Planned move pinning pawn back, thus ending in checkmate (8)

DOWN

1 Student abandons plan to take course showing lack of interest (6)
2 Son left immobile after drinking a rum cocktail – it's upsetting (9)
3 It's an offence by cheat to seduce essentially woozy female on date (8,2,5)
4 Consuming cocaine, went out animated (7)
6 Turning despondent, argue and become angry (3,4,6,2)
7 Losing head, yelled and had a row? (5)
8 Where food might be served easily (2,1,5)
9 Hurt by bad result (6)
16 Views boil situated over patient's back (9)
17 Covers at ground? It's cloudy (8)
19 Agreed to restrict rent in Russian city (6)
20 Blame alcoholic drink, losing head quicker (7)
21 Learner lost, confused about number in part of a sum (6)
23 English philosopher in bar, starting to enlighten (5)

SUDOKU

	1		7		5			
	6					1		
4			3			7		
	3		2	9				
		1	8		6	5		
				3	1		2	
		8			9			3
		6					4	
			6		2		8	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13585

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	1	3	8	9	4	7	6	2
6	8	7	2	1	5	9	3	4
9	2	4	7	6	3	1	8	5
2	7	6	1	5	8	3	4	9
8	9	1	4	3	2	6	5	7
4	3	5	6	7	9	2	1	8
7	5	9	3	4	1	8	2	6
3	4	2	9	8	6	5	7	1
1	6	8	5	2	7	4	9	3

FAITH

All pervasive Tripurasundari

Abirami Bhattar praises Ambal as 'Muppurai." The name is used because of various attributes of Ambal, said M.A. Manickavelu, in a discourse. She is present in the three fires – Ahvaneeya, dakshina, gaarhapatya. She is in all three kinds of bodies – sthoola sareera (gross body), sookshma sareera (subtle body) and kaarana sareera (causal body). She is the force behind the qualities of sattva, rajas and tamas. She is in the three lights – Sun, Moon and Agni. She is in the three important aspects of Sri Chakra. She is present in the celestial region in this world and also in patala (netherworld). She is in all three nadis – ida, pingala and sushumna. Moondru in Tamil means three, and since Ambal is present in all these above-mentioned sets of three, Bhattar addresses Her as Muppurai.

He also extols Her as Tripurasundari for the same reason. She wears a copper ornament on Her breasts, says Bhattar. Her devotees are blemishless like pure gold. A jewel is made with an alloy of gold and copper. Her bhaktas, who have pure thoughts, are like pure gold, and through their bhakti, they reach Ambal. In verse five of his Abirami Andadi, Bhattar refers to Ambal as "Manonmani." This means that She is the One who purifies us, and gives us jnana. Manonmani is one of the Goddess' names in Lalitha Sahasranama. When Lord Siva consumed the Halahala poison, She put Her hand on His neck, and stopped the poison from doing any harm. Kumaraguruparar in his Meenakshi Ammai Kuram says that Goddess Meenakshi converts poison into nectar. Ambal is present in all of us. Bhattar says Ambal is antari. In Sanskrit antariksha means sky. Ambal is present in the sky above, and so She is Antari. Lalitha Sahasranama refers to this aspect of the Goddess by praising Her as Parakasa.

EU backs Ukraine's 'European dream'

Zelensky thanks the bloc's leadership for their 'historic decision'; Russia cuts gas supplies to the West

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRUSSELS

Europe sent a powerful symbol of solidarity with Ukraine on Friday, when Brussels backed Kyiv's bid for EU candidate status, even as Russia shelled frontline Ukrainian cities and cut back gas supplies to the West.

With the European Commission's backing, Ukraine could now be added to the list of countries vying for EU membership as early as next week, when member state leaders meet at their Brussels summit.

In response, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that his country had "nothing against" Ukraine's possible membership of the EU. "We have nothing against it. It's their sovereign decision to join economic unions or not... It's their business, the business of the Ukrainian people," Mr. Putin told Russia's annual economic showcase, the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum.

Set in motion: Boris Johnson shaking hands with Volodymyr Zelensky prior to talks during his visit to Kyiv on Friday. • AFP

All 27 EU leaders will have to agree to the candidacy, but the heads of the European Union's biggest members – France, Germany and Italy – already gave their full-throated support to the idea on Thursday, on a trip to a war-torn suburb of Kyiv.

Then on Friday, the European Commission gave the executive's formal backing to the bid, and EU chief Ursula von der Leyen made her position clear by donning a striking jacket in Ukraine's national colours. "We all know that Ukrainians are ready to die for the European perspective. We want them to live with us for the European dream."

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky immediately welcomed the decision as a "first step on the EU membership path that'll certainly bring our victory closer".

He thanked Ms. von der Leyen for the commission's "historic decision" and said he expected that EU leaders would give Ukraine a "positive result" at the June 23-24 summit.

Once Ukraine joins the EU candidates' list – alongside several countries in the western Balkans – it could still take years to meet all the formal membership requirements, even if Kyiv prevails in the war.

"Yes, Ukraine should be welcomed as a candidate country – this is based on the understanding that good work has been done but important work also remains to be done," Ms. von der Leyen said.

In the meantime, the fighting continues, with Russian forces bombarding Ukrainian pockets of resistance in frontline Severodonetsk, including civilians holed up in a chemical plant in the eastern Ukrainian city.

And Moscow turned up the pressure on the Western allies, sharply reducing flows of natural gas in its pipelines to Western Europe, driving up energy prices.

France's network provider said it had not received any Russian gas by pipeline from Germany since June 15, and Italy's Eni said it expected Russian firm Gazprom to cut its supplies by half on Friday.

Several European countries, are highly reliant upon Russian gas and, as the West sides with Ukraine, Moscow is cutting supplies.

U.K. govt. orders Assange's extradition; appeal planned

We are going to fight this, says the WikiLeaks founder's wife

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

The British government on Friday ordered the extradition of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to the U.S. to face spying charges, a milestone – but not the end – of a decade-long legal saga sparked by his website's publication of classified U.S. documents.

Protracted battle: Julian Assange's lawyer Jennifer Robinson, left, and his wife Stella Moris in London on Friday. • REUTERS

WikiLeaks said it would challenge the order, and Mr. Assange's lawyers have 14 days to lodge an appeal. "We're not at the end of the road here," said Mr. Assange's wife, Stella Assange. "We're going to fight this."

Mr. Assange has battled in British courts for years to avoid being sent to the U.S., where he faces 17 charges of espionage and one charge of computer misuse.

American prosecutors say the Australian citizen helped U.S. Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning steal classified diplomatic cables and military files that WikiLeaks later published, putting lives at risk.

To his supporters, Mr. Assange, 50, is a secrecy-busting journalist who exposed U.S. military wrongdoing in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A British court ruled in April that Mr. Assange could be sent to face trial in the U.S., sending the case to the U.K. government for a decision. Britain's Interior Minister, Home Secretary Priti Patel, signed an order on Friday authorising Mr. Assange's extradition.

The Home Office said in a statement that the government had to approve his move to the U.S. because "the U.K. courts have not found that it would be oppressive, unjust or an abuse of process to extradite Mr. Assange".

Barry Pollack, Mr. Assange's U.S. lawyer, said it was "disappointing news that should concern anyone who cares about the First Amendment and the right to publish."

Mr. Assange's lawyers said they would mount a new legal challenge, and legal experts say the case could take months or even years more to conclude. "We will appeal this all the way, if necessary to the European Court of Human Rights," Mr. Assange attorney Jennifer Robinson said.

5 mn Indians affected by disasters: UN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
UNITED NATIONS

Nearly five million people in India were internally displaced due to climate change and disasters in 2021, the United Nations has said in a report.

The annual Global Trends Report by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) highlighted that globally 100 million people were forced to flee their homes last year due to violence, human rights abuses, food insecurity, the climate crisis, war in Ukraine and other emergencies from Africa to Afghanistan.

"The largest displacements in the context of disasters in 2021 occurred in China (6.0 million), the Philippines (5.7 million) and India (4.9 million)," it said.

The majority of the internally displaced persons returned to their home areas, but 5.9 million people worldwide remained displaced, the report said.

Biden hosts climate summit overshadowed by fuel costs

Russia to give meeting a miss, India not on list of attendees

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden hosts a virtual summit of major economies on Friday attempting to tackle climate change just as fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine underlies the globe's reliance on fossil fuels.

This is Mr. Biden's third convening of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate since he took office in 2021 with a vow to make the United States a leader in the world's attempt to halt catastrophic global warming.

"This meeting of the MEF is a continuation of the President's efforts to use all levers to tackle the global climate crisis, urgently address rising costs around the world exacerbated by Russia's war on Ukraine, and put the U.S. and allies on a path to long-term energy and food security," the White House said.

Joe Biden

"In urging countries to enhance climate ambition, he invited fellow leaders to join the United States in a set of concrete, collective initiatives that will accelerate global action on climate."

A senior Biden administration official said 23 countries would be represented at the video conference, representing most of the world's major economies and "focused around the mitigation that they will be taking" on climate impacts.

Friday's gathering will be the largest leader-level gathering before COP27, the follow-up summit, set to take place in Egypt this November.

No Xi's presence

But Russia will not be attending Friday's summit.

China will be represented only at the level of its climate envoy, rather than President Xi Jinping, the White House said. And India is not on the official list of attendees, either.

For Mr. Biden, the push to move the world away from fossil fuels comes also at an awkward domestic political moment.

Western sanctions aimed at crippling major energy producer Russia have helped send fuel costs sharply higher in Europe and the United States, with inflation generally soaring as a result.

2 mn stranded in Bangladesh due to floods

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SYLHET

Bangladesh has deployed troops to help two million people stranded by floods after relentless monsoon rains inundated huge swathes of territory for the second time in weeks.

Much of the country's northeast is underwater and the situation could worsen over the weekend with more heavy rains forecast.

Authorities suspended imminent high school graduation tests across the country, with hundreds of classrooms now being used as makeshift shelters.

Schools, govt. offices shut in Sri Lanka

Fuel crunch brings public transport to a screeching halt

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Sri Lankan authorities on Friday announced a two-week shutdown of government offices and schools, as public transport ground almost entirely to a halt due to a lack of dollars to pay for imported fuel.

The Public Administration Ministry ordered all departments, public institutions and local councils to maintain skeleton services from Monday in response to the acute shortage of petrol and diesel.

Friday holiday

Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis since gaining independence in 1948.

Earlier this week, authorities declared Friday a holiday, also in a bid to conserve fuel. Despite that move, long queues were seen outside pumping stations on Friday, with many motorists saying they had waited for days to top up their tanks.

The Education Ministry said all schools have been asked to remain closed for two weeks from Monday and to ensure online teaching if students and teachers had access to electricity.

China gets its third aircraft carrier

Technology onboard includes electromagnetic catapults to launch jets off deck

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SHANGHAI

China on Friday launched its biggest and most modern aircraft carrier, marking a major military advance for the Asian superpower.

The announcement comes at a time of heightened tensions between China and the United States over Beijing's sabre-rattling towards Taiwan, which it views as a breakaway province to be seized by force if necessary.

China's carrier development programme is part of a massive overhaul of the People's Liberation Army under President Xi Jinping, who has vowed to build a "fully modern" force to rival the U.S. military by 2027.

Growing fleet: The launch ceremony of the PLA aircraft carrier *Fujian* at a shipyard in Shanghai on Friday. • AFP

The new carrier, named *Fujian*, is the "first catapult aircraft carrier wholly designed and built by China", said state broadcaster *CCTV*.

It has significantly more advanced technology than China's two other carriers, including electromagnetic catapults to launch aircraft off its deck, the official *Xinhua* news agency reported. The other carriers use a ski-jump-style ramp for takeoffs.

And with a displacement of more than 80,000 tonnes, according to *Xinhua*, it is comparable in size to the supercarriers of the United States Navy.

Collin Koh, a research fellow at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, said it could be a "game changer" for the Chinese navy. "The conventional flight deck with (electromagnetic catapults) will at least in theory allow the carrier to launch aircraft faster and with heavier payloads – which constitute key deciding factors during battle," he said.

It will take years before the *Fujian* becomes operational. Authorities have not said when it will enter service.

U.S. approves vaccines for its youngest lot

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration granted emergency authorisation on Friday for the use of Pfizer and Moderna COVIDd-19 vaccines in the youngest children, the final age group awaiting immunisation in most countries.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention must now also recommend the vaccines before they are put into use – a final green light that will be given after a meeting of a committee of experts expected to be held shortly.

3 killed in Israeli raid in West Bank, says Palestine

Traded fire with militants, insists Israel

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM

Israeli forces shot dead three Palestinians and wounded eight others on early Friday during a military operation in the occupied West Bank town of Jenin, the Palestinian Health Ministry said. The military said the troops traded fire with militants.

The Israeli military has been carrying out near-daily raids in the occupied West Bank since a string of attacks earlier this year killed 19 persons in Israel. Many of the arrest raids have been launched in and around Jenin, the hometown of several of the attackers.

The military said it raided two locations in search of weapons. At the first, it says soldiers fired back after Palestinians opened fire and hurled explosive devices at them. On their way to the second location, they exchanged fire with Palestinian gunmen in a vehicle.

The military did not say whether any of the militants were killed. It said the troops confiscated rifles, and other equipment from inside the vehicle.

Saudi Prince to visit Turkey next week

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ISTANBUL

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman will visit Turkey next week, the Turkish president said on Friday, as Ankara and Riyadh heal a bitter rift following the 2018 murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Istanbul.

It is Prince Mohammed's first visit to Turkey since the brutal killing of Saudi insider-turned-critic Khashoggi inside the kingdom's consulate, which shocked the world and dealt a blow to ties between the regional rivals.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Education,
Annex-3 Building, 3rd Floor, BBMP Head Office Premises, NR Square, Bengaluru - 560002.
No: EE(Edu)/Tend/3/2022-23 Dated: 14.06.2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, (Edu) BBMP Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible tenderers for the construction of works Detailed in the Table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works/Category	Amount put to Tender (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (₹. in Lakhs)
1.	Repair and Maintenance of BBMP College & Schools at Magadi Road, Ward No-121-Binnypete (General)	80.34	1.61
2.	Repair and Maintenance of BBMP College & Schools at Kasthurba -nagara Ward No-141-Azadnagara (General)	80.40	1.61
3.	Repair and Maintenance of BBMP College & Schools at Byraveshwara -nagara Ward No-127-Mudalapalya (General)	80.78	1.62
4.	Repair and Maintenance of BBMP High School & Nursary at Chinnayana -Palya, Ward No-145-Hombegowda -nagara (General)	36.00	0.72
5.	Repair and Maintenance of BBMP Boys, Girls High Schools & Ground Improvements at Austin Town, Ward No-114-Agaram (General)	80.78	1.62
6.	Repair and Maintenance of BBMP Boys & Girls High Schools at Austin Town, Ward No-114-Agaram (General)	80.15	1.60
7.	Repair and Maintenance of BBMP Nursary School at S K Garden, Ward No-61. (General)	42.25	0.85
8.	Repair and Maintenance of BBMP High School at Ashoka Nagara, Ward No-154-Basavanagudi (General)	45.86	0.92

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from 21.06.2022 at 6:00 pm. (2) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 02.07.2022 upto 4:00 pm. (3) Last date for receipt of queries is 30.06.2022 upto 4:00 pm. (4) Technical Bids will be opened on 04.07.2022 at 4:00 pm in the office of the undersigned. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Education

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: SEE/T(W&M)/MYS/EEE(O)/AEE-2/AE-1/22-23/1479-81 Date: 16.06.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement Portal only)

KPTCL invites bids through e-procurement portal for the works stated below:

Bid Enquiry No.: (1) KPTCL/SEE/TWM/SM/Mdy/304 to 332, dated 04.05.2022 for providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and maintenance works at 66/11KV & 220/66/11KV Sub-stations pertaining to TL&SS Division Mysuru (NRM), KPTCL, Mysuru coming under the jurisdiction of Transmission Circle, KPTCL, Mysuru.

(2) KPTCL/SEE/TWM/SM/Htgly/333 to 373, dated 04.05.2022 for providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and maintenance works at 66/11KV & 220/66/11KV Sub-stations pertaining to TL&SS Division Hootagally, KPTCL, Mysuru coming under the jurisdiction of Transmission Circle, KPTCL, Mysuru.

(3) KPTCL/SEE/TWM/SM/CRN/374 to 394, dated 04.05.2022 for providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and maintenance works at 66/11KV & 220/66/11KV Sub-stations pertaining to TL&SS Division CR Nagara, KPTCL, Mysuru coming under the jurisdiction of Transmission Circle, KPTCL, Mysuru.

The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"e-procurement"** or **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 20.06.2022.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl., Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, N.R. Mohalla, Mysuru-570007. Ph: 0821-2455018

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Commissioner, 7th Floor, KHB Complex, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.
No. WDD/DDA/REWARD/Proc.(R.T)/SMME/2022-23 Date: 17.06.2022

TENDER INVITING NOTICE

PROCUREMENT OF SOIL MOISTURE MONITORING EQUIPMENTS UNDER WORLD BANK ASSISTED REWARD PROGRAM

Watershed Development Department proposes to procure Soil Moisture Monitoring Equipments mentioned below under the World Bank assisted REWARD program through Karnataka e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in;**

Name of the Equipments	Qty.	EMD in Rs.
Soil Moisture Monitoring Equipments with two years warranty and CMC for 25% of the equipments for three years		
Schedule-I: Soil moisture Profile measurement Equipment: Automatic Profile soil moisture (Time domain) up to 90cm at 6 depths	23	5,69,256/-
Schedule-III: TDR -TDR profile Soil moisture - Manual/ portable measurements	37	6,35,762/-

The Tender documents and detailed information for tenderers are available in the e-procurement portal from **17.06.2022**. Interested Manufacturer or their authorized agents may please go through the details and offer their bids. The last date for submission of bids is **01.07.2022 within 5.00 PM** and the pre-bid meeting is scheduled on **23.06.2022 at 11.00 AM.**

Sd/-
Director, Watershed Development Department, Bangalore

DBPR/CP1967/Zenkar/2022-23

COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

MARKET WATCH

	17-06-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	51,360	-0.26
US Dollar	78.05	0.06
Gold	50,802	0.39
Brent oil	114.15	-4.48

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	668.95	-12.75
Apollo Hosp	3701.25	37.60
Asian Paints	2580.20	-77.25
Axis Bank	635.20	0.30
Bajaj Auto	3628.95	-29.25
Bajaj Finserv	11754.85	282.95
Bajaj Finance	5419.55	135.65
Bharti Airtel	643.65	-10.55
BPCL	301.00	-10.65
Britannia Ind	3332.10	-58.30
Cipla	914.75	-26.20
Coal India	182.65	2.75
Divis Lab	3481.95	-82.95
Dr Reddys Lab	4146.70	-140.80
Eicher Motors	2604.80	-47.70
Grasim Ind	1290.05	5.00
HCL Tech	958.75	-6.20
HDFC	2052.70	-3.80
HDFC Bank	1289.75	8.45
HDFC Life	550.80	-19.75
Hero MotoCorp	2467.40	-51.65
Hindalco	333.70	-2.40
Hind Unilever	2110.45	-36.25
ICICI Bank	686.85	8.35
Indusind Bank	806.90	-2.70
Infosys	1387.30	-9.90
ITC	263.30	2.60
JSW Steel	554.60	8.75
Kotak Bank	1673.60	-2.20
L&T	1489.95	-37.45
M&M	997.65	-7.60
Maruti Suzuki	7688.15	-145.45
Nestle India Ltd.	16642.40	-231.60
NTPC	140.45	-2.50
ONGC	141.45	-2.10
PowerGrid Corp	211.35	-5.00
Reliance Ind	2590.00	30.00
SBI Life	1082.10	-23.05
State Bank	441.00	-0.60
Shree Cement	18045.75	-666.10
Sun Pharma	793.40	-21.20
Tata Consumer Products Ltd	711.65	-13.10
Tata Motors	388.95	-4.00
Tata Steel	906.70	5.00
TCS	3088.90	-53.10
Tech Mahindra	965.05	-10.25
Titan	1936.45	-124.50
UltraTech Cement	5177.30	-127.95
UPL	665.15	-18.50
Wipro	405.20	-17.10

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 17

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	77.87	78.19
Euro	81.89	82.23
British Pound	95.75	96.15
Japanese Yen (100)	57.97	58.22
Chinese Yuan	11.61	11.67
Swiss Franc	80.74	81.07
Singapore Dollar	56.18	56.42
Canadian Dollar	59.97	60.24
Malaysian Ringitt	17.68	17.79
Australian Dollar	54.46	54.69

Source: Indian Bank

RBI is not behind the curve: Das

'Premature focus on inflation target would have been disastrous for economy'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday refuted criticism of the RBI being behind the curve in its policies, making it clear that the consequences of focusing on the 4% inflation target would have been "disastrous" for the pandemic-hit economy.

In comments that came two days after former chief economic advisor Arvind Subramanian co-authored an article blaming the RBI for acting late on inflation, Mr. Das said the central bank acted as per the evolving economic developments.

"Tolerance of a higher inflation during the pandemic was a necessity," Mr. Das said speaking at an event organised by the Financial Express.

Being mindful: 'RBI's flexible inflation targeting mandate requires it to take care of price rise and growth'. •REUTERS

He said the RBI switched into ultra-accommodation as soon as the country went into the lockdown and shifted focus to inflation two years later in April 2022, when it saw the GDP had exceeded the pre-pandemic level.

Despite its accommodative policies, the economy contracted by 6.6% in FY21 and recovered to barely above the pre-pandemic levels in FY22, he said, stressing that a shift in policy management to focus on inflation even 3-4 months before April would not have been apt.

"We are very much in line with the requirements of our time, the RBI has acted proactively and I would not agree with any perception or any sort of description that the RBI has fallen behind the curve," Mr. Das stressed.

He said the RBI's mandate is that of flexible inflation targeting where it is required to take care of both price rise and growth, especially in extraordinary situations.

"If we had been very firm in maintaining 4% (inflation) and kept the rates unduly high, I'm sorry, the consequences of that approach would have been disastrous for the economy.

"If we had attempted to keep... monetary policy tighter at that time, the economic damage that you would have caused" would have taken years for India to recover from, he observed.

Sensex falls a sixth day amid slowdown fears

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The benchmark S&P BSE Sensex declined for a sixth straight session on Friday as fears that global monetary tightening to tame inflation could stymie growth roiled financial markets worldwide.

The Sensex slid 0.26% to close at 51,360.42.

Titan led losses slumping 6.06%, with Wipro (4.07%) and Dr. Reddy's (3.35%) among the losers.

"It was the worst week for our markets in the current calendar year," said Sameet Chavan, Chief Analyst-Technical and Derivatives, Angel One. "There has been no respite in macro factors globally and hence, markets continue to feel the heat," he added.

Govt. keen to keep capex growth supportive: CEA

'Focus is on preserving momentum'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The government is committed to ensure that capital expenditure will continue to support the economic growth momentum regained after the third COVID-19 wave, Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran said on Friday.

"Given the ongoing sense of uncertainty among the private sector participants, both in banking and the non-banking world, the government is committed to making sure that capital expenditure continues (in) such (a way) that growth impulse that we have regained after the third wave is not surrendered," Mr. Nageswaran said while speaking at a banking event.

V. Anantha Nageswaran

"For the current financial year, if the government is able to execute the capital expenditure of ₹7.5 lakh crore, then that is the biggest real economic intervention," he emphasised.

"We are becoming inflation intolerant and that is important to stabilise inflation expectations," he said.

U.S. factory output in May unexpectedly weak

'Evidence of economy slowing'

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

Production at U.S. factories unexpectedly fell in May, the latest sign of cooling economic activity as the Federal Reserve aggressively tightens monetary policy to tame inflation.

The first decline in manufacturing output since January, reported by the Fed on Friday, followed news this week of a drop in retail sales last month as well as steep declines in homebuilding and permits.

The weakness in production also reflects a shift in spending from goods to services. "It adds to the evidence that the economy is slowing," said Andrew Hunter, a senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics. "But there is still little in activity data to suggest a recession is on the horizon, or to dissuade the Fed from pressing ahead with more aggressive policy tightening."

The weakness in production reflects a shift in spending to services

Manufacturing output dipped 0.1% last month after increasing 0.8% in April.

Manufacturing, which accounts for 12% of the U.S. economy, has been supported by strong demand for goods. But spending is gradually reverting back to services, while Russia's dragging war against Ukraine and China's zero-tolerance COVID-19 policy have further entangled supply chains.

GoM fails to concur on GST rationalisation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A panel of state ministers on GST rate rationalisation on Friday failed to reach a consensus as some opposed changes to tax slabs and rates, sources said.

The Group of Ministers will, however, present a status report to the GST Council on the consensus arrived at the previous meeting of the GoM on November 20, 2021, the sources added.

The GoM will seek an extension to submit its final report, they said, adding issues of tax rates would also be raised in the upcoming Council meeting later this month. The council, chaired by the Finance Minister would meet on June 28 and 29 in Srinagar.

'Big Tech's financial services play may add to systemic risks'

Das flags lenders' increasing reliance on fintech platforms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The increasing role that large technology companies (Big Tech) are playing in the provision of financial services has the potential to accentuate systemic risks such as over-leverage, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das said on Friday.

"Companies, whether from e-commerce, social media and search engine platforms, ride hailing and similar businesses have started to offer financial services in a big way on their own or on behalf of others," Mr. Das noted. "These companies have an enormous amount of customer data which has helped them to offer tailored financial services to entities and individuals lacking credit history or collateral," he said in a speech at a banking industry meet, the text of which the RBI posted on its website.

Shaktikanta Das

Observing that banks and other lenders sometimes utilised platforms provided by fintech companies in their internal processes for credit risk assessment, Mr. Das said: "Such large scale use of new methodologies in credit risk assessment can create systemic concerns like over-leverage, inadequate credit assessment".

"Big techs also pose concerns related to competition, data protection, data sharing and operational resilience of critical services in situations where banks and NBFCs utilise" their services, he added.

"Regulators have to strike a fine balance between enabling innovation and preventing systemic risks," the RBI Governor cautioned.

'Pick up in use of capacity, a sign of growth'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

State Bank of India (SBI) chairman Dinesh Khara on Friday said the improvement in capacity utilisation to 74% from 69% shows that the economy is geared up for its natural growth.

He said among the large nations across the globe, India is one of the most stable economies in the current situation.

"The way the capacity utilisation has improved from 69% to 74%, and is inching upwards, it is a clear sign that the economy is poised for its natural growth," Mr. Khara said at a banking event.

On credit demand, Mr. Khara said retail and corporate sectors are both witnessing momentum.

IN BRIEF

HDFC Life to raise up to ₹350 cr. debt capital

NEW DELHI

HDFC Life Insurance Company on Friday said it will raise debt capital of up to ₹350 crore by issuing bonds on a private placement basis. The board's Capital Raising Committee approved a proposal for raising up to ₹350 crore through issuance of 3,500 non-convertible debentures, HDFC Life said in a regulatory filing. PTI

Govt. prices sovereign gold bond at ₹5,091/gm

MUMBAI

The issue price of Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2022-23 - Series I has been fixed at ₹5,091 per gram of gold of 999 purity. The issue will be open for subscription during June 20-24. "The nominal value of the bond, based on the simple average closing price for gold of 999 purity of the last three business days of the week preceding the subscription period, works out to ₹5,091 per gram of gold," the RBI said in a statement.

'EVs to match petrol vehicle price in a year'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The prices of all electric vehicles (EVs) will be equal to the cost of petrol vehicles in the country within one year, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Friday.

He further said the government is promoting ethanol produced from crop residue instead of petrol and diesel. "I am trying... within one year, the cost of electric vehicles will be equivalent to the cost of petrol vehicles and we will save money spent on fossil fuels," he said.

He said said the government was already promoting green fuels in a big way.

Mr. Gadkari noted that waterways are a cheaper mode of transportation than road and it is going to come up in a big way.

RBI unveils document focusing on e-payments

Aims to impart safe, affordable options

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India has come out with "Payments Vision 2025" with a core theme of 'E-Payments for Everyone, Everywhere, Everytime' (4Es) with an objective to provide every user with safe, secure, fast, convenient, accessible and affordable e-payment options.

"It promises to further elevate India's payment systems towards a realm of empowering users with affordable payment options accessible anytime and anywhere with convenience," the RBI said in the vision document.

"Considering the current geopolitical developments across the world, the document also seeks to address the potential risks arising out of any adverse situation that may arise," the banking regulator said.

"With the change/shift in customer behaviour towards embracing digital and touchless modes of payments, there is a spike of 50% in mobile banking users, indicating inclusion of first-time users into the digital fold.

"The challenge is to make this an irreversible shift," the central bank said in the vision document.

India said to impose ceiling on next season's sugar exports to check prices

'Curbs may lift benchmark white sugar prices already trading near 5-1/2 year highs'

REUTERS
MUMBAI

India is likely to impose a ceiling on sugar exports for a second straight year starting this October, aiming to ensure ample domestic supplies and keep a lid on local prices, industry and government sources said on Friday.

India, the world's biggest sugar producer, could cap exports of the sweetener at 6 million to 7 million tonnes (mt) in the 2022/23 October-September season, about one-third less than the total to be shipped out in the current season, industry and government sources said.

They asked not to be named as they were not authorised to speak to media. A government spokesman did not respond to a request for comment.

The curbs on exports by India, also the world's second-biggest sugar exporter, could further lift benchmark white sugar prices, which are already trading near 5-1/2 year highs, traders said.

Among factors underpinning global sugar prices this year are lower sugar output in Brazil, the biggest exporter, and crude oil prices at multi-year highs. Higher crude oil prices encourage sugar mills to divert more cane to produce ethanol for blending into gasoline.

Brazil's sugar production is set to rebound during the current season, but with restricted exports from India, traders do not expect prices to come down and they instead could go higher.

"There is a need to regulate exports to avoid any kind of panic in the market," said a senior government official. While the sources expected next season's export cap to be set between 6 million and 7 million tonnes, the exact quantity will be fixed near the start of the 2022/23 season, they said.

The government will look at the performance of the monsoon before fixing the quota, they added.

Monsoon rains in sugarcane growing areas of the western India State of Maharashtra, the biggest producer in the country, were 60% below average since the start of the rainy season on June 1, according to weather office.

Aditya Jhunjhunwala, president of the Indian Sugar Mills Association, has requested that the government allow mills to export 8 million tonnes of sugar next year, as output could exceed this year's record 36 million tonnes, according to a letter seen by Reuters.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-2/TENDER/2022-23/1431 DATE: 17/06/2022

Short Term E-Tender Notification

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise short term e-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 9 works under head of account 5054-MDR Improvements & 2 works under head of account 5054-SH Improvements Total 11 works, Amount put to tender is Minimum of Rs. 63.02 Lakhs and Maximum of Rs. 378.15 Lakhs.

Calendar of events :1)Pre-bid meeting date: 22-06-2022 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2)Last date for queries & clarifications : 24-06-2022 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 27-06-2022 up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 29-06-2022 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids"

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/-Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikkodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-MO-353/MCA/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
Panchayath Raj Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer, Hassan Division Hassan.

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO-01/2022-23 Dated:15.06.2022

The Executive Engineer, P.R.E Division Hassan, on behalf of Governer of Karnataka has invited tender through e-procurement www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in under Head of 2021-22th 5054, as per KW-4. The Contractor can have access to e-procurement documents from 21.06.2022 upto 30.06.2022 at 4.00 P.M. Last date for Submission of completed e-procurement documents upto 30.06.2022 upto 4.00 PM. Technical Bid of kW-4 Works will be opened on 02.07.2022 after 4.00P.M. The opening of KW-4 Financial Bid will be notified after the approval of Technical bid. Any further information Or Clarification for the above said works can be obtained from above mentioned office during the office hours & from the above said website.

sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.R.E.Division, Hassan.

FORM A
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF CONCORD CREATIONS (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED

	RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1.	Name of corporate debtor	Concord Creations (India) Private Limited
2.	Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	08/12/2005
3.	Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	Registrar of Companies, Bangalore, India, under the Companies Act, 1956
4.	Corporate Identity No. / Limited Liability Identification No. of corporate debtor	U18101KA2005PTC037880
5.	Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	No.731, 4th Floor, Housing Board Colony, 4th Stage Yelahanka New Town, Bangalore Karnataka- 560064
6.	Insolvency commencement date in respect of corporate debtor	31-05-2022 (Copy of the order received on 16-06-2022)
7.	Estimated date of closure of insolvency resolution process	27-11-2022 (180 days from the Insolvency Commencement Date)
8.	Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as interim resolution professional	Name– Pankaj Srivastava Reg No- IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P00245/2017-18/10474
9.	Address and e-mail of the interim resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Reg. Add: 5, 5th Cross Navya Nagar, Jakkur, Bangalore, Karnataka- 560064 Email – psri@live.com
10.	Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the interim resolution professional	Correspondence Address: 1st Floor, No.29, S N Complex, 14th Main Road, 'E' Block Extn, Sahakaranagar, Bangalore-560092 Email – cirp.cdpl@gmail.com
11.	Last date for submission of claims	30-06-2022
12.	Classes of creditors, if any, under clause (b) of sub-section (6A) of section 21, ascertained by the interim resolution professional	Not Applicable
13.	Names of Insolvency Professionals identified to act as Authorised Representative of creditors in a class (Three names for each class)	Not Applicable
14.	(a) Relevant Forms and (b) Details of authorized representatives are available at:	(a) www.ibbi.gov.in (b) Not Applicable

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal, Bangalore Bench has ordered the commencement of a corporate insolvency resolution process of the Concord Creations (India) Private Limited on 31-05-2022 (Order copy received on 16-06-2022)
The creditors of Concord Creations (India) Private Limited are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 30-06-2022 to the interim resolution professional at the address mentioned against entry No. 10.
The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with proof in person, by post, or by electronic means.
A financial creditor belonging to a class, as listed against entry No. 12, shall indicate its choice of an authorized representative from among the three insolvency professionals listed against entry No.13 to act as the authorized representative of the class (NA) in Form CA.
Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

Sd/-
Date: 16-06-2022 Pankaj Srivastava
Place: Bangalore Reg. No- IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P00245/2017-2018/10474

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD
Estate Branch, Krishinagar, Dharwad-580 005.
Fax:+91-836-2441188 Phone :+ 91-836-2214214
E mail: estateofficer@rediffmail.com Epabx:+91-836-2214214/216,332/242
No.EO/DB/ Seeds/SOS/2022-23 Date: 17.06.2022

"e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION"

Tenders have been invited from registered Agencies / firms for Disposal of 779.25 quintal unfit seeds, at UAS Dharwad. The details of the tender can be had through e-procurement portal (http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in) For more details please contact **9448497353** during office hours. Interested agencies need to register with the e-Procurement portal for participating in the tender. For details of registration please contact ph. No: **080-23010900**.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1	Last Date & Time for Tender Queries / Clarifications.	25.06.2022	Up to	16.00 Hrs
2	Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders.	01.07.2022	Up to	16.00 Hrs
3	Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid.	02.07.2022	At	16.15 Hrs

Note: The bidders shall get updated / acquainted with ADDENDUM / CORRIGENDUM (if any) issued on-line from time to time on the e-procurement portal (https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in) during the entire tender process.

Sd/- Estate Officer

DIPR/DWD/228/2022-23/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19. NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hemavathy Dam Division, Gorur Hassan District.

Short Term Tender Notification No:07/2022-23
Date:14.06.2022

The Executive Engineer, CNNL.,Hemavathy Dam Division, Gorur573120 Hassan Taluk Hassan Dist., As Per KW-4, invited Item rate Short term tender (Two covers) through e- procurement only vide No. 07/202223, dated 14.06.2022 on behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore from the eligible contractors of PWD Class-III of any State /Central Government /Public Sector organization Cost put to tender Rs. 131.82 Lakhs, EMD as Prescribed in e-portal, The contractor can have access etender documents from 16.06.2022 to 23.06.2022 through website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on payment (Non Refundable) of transaction fees as fixed by E - portal (2) Opening of Technical bid (Cover-I) 24.06.2022 at 11.00 AM onwards. (if possible) (3)Cover-II (Financial bid) will be opened after approval of Technical bid from the competent authority. For further information etc., contact in the undersigned office during working hours or through website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in(Department).

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathy Dam Division, Gorur

Karthik, Hardik and Avesh help India pull level with emphatic win

After the two batters power the Men in Blue to 169, the pacer delivers a fiery spell to derail South Africa's chase; the hosts make it 2-2 with an all-round performance

SA IN INDIA

S. DIPAK RAGAV
RAJKOT

Dinesh Karthik produced one of his finest T20I knocks (55, 27b, 9x4, 2x6) to set up a thumping 82-run win for India in the fourth T20I against South Africa and level the five-match series 2-2 at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium on Friday.

When Karthik arrived at the crease in the 13th over, India was wobbling at 81 for four after being asked to bat on a pitch of variable bounce that assisted the fast bowlers. He found an able ally in Hardik Pandya (46, 31b, 3x4, 3x6), the duo adding 65 off just 33 balls for the fifth wicket.

Strong finish

Rishabh Pant's men finished strongly, making 169 for six in 20 overs after being 56 for three at the halfway stage.

Once he got his eye in, Karthik flourished in the final phase of the innings, smashing the spinners and pacers as India rattled up 73 in the last five overs.

Karthik first went after Anrich Nortje, hitting two boundaries through the offside. He then launched into Keshav Maharaj, sweeping and reverse-sweeping the left-arm spinner for three consecutive boundaries in the 17th over.

In the next over, it was Dwaine Pretorius' turn to suffer as Karthik walked across to the off-stump and swept the medium-pacer for a six and a four on the legside. The 36-year-old Tamil Nadu batter reached his maiden T20I half-century with a six over mid-wicket in the final over bowled by Pretorius.

Fizzling out

Needing 170 to seal the series, South Africa's chase never took off. Skipper Temba Bavuma had to retire hurt after injuring his left elbow while diving to complete a run at the start of the fourth over.

Quinton de Kock, returning to the team after recovering from a wrist injury, hit a few boundaries off Hardik but was run out after a mix-up with Pretorius. Avesh Khan soon had Pretorius caught behind before Yuzvendra Chahal trapped Heinrich Klaasen in front.

Harshal Patel then got rid of the dangerous David Miller for the second successive time, castling the South African left-hander with a delivery that angled across. Rassie van der Dussen and Marco Jansen tried their best, but Avesh struck thrice in the 14th over as he finished with figures of 4-0-18-4. Chahal's spell read 4-0-21-2.

Earlier, Lungi Ngidi, who replaced Kagiso Rabada, struck in his first over when he had Ruturaj Gaikwad caught at slip. In the fourth over, Jansen, who came in for Wayne Parnell, dismissed Shreyas Iyer leg-before.

Ishan Kishan, who looked good during his knock of 27, tried to ramp Nortje over the 'keeper and edged to de Kock. Pant fell cheaply again before Hardik and Karthik turned the game on its head to keep the series alive.

Ruling the night: Karthik, right, was at his belligerent best as he revived the Indian innings in the company of Hardik. Avesh's four-for put the match beyond South Africa. • VIJAY SONEJI

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Ruturaj Gaikwad c de Kock b Ngidi 5 *(7b, 1x4)*, Ishan Kishan c de Kock b Nortje 27 *(26b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Shreyas Iyer lbw b Jansen 4 *(2b, 1x4)*, Rishabh Pant c Pretorius b Maharaj 17 *(23b, 2x4)*, Hardik Pandya c Shamsi b Ngidi 46 *(31b, 3x4, 3x6)*, Dinesh Karthik c van der Dussen b Pretorius 55 *(27b, 9x4, 2x6)*, Axar Patel (not out) 8 *(4b, 1x4)*, Harshal Patel (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-3, nb-1): 6; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 169.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-13 (Ruturaj, 1.6 overs), 2-24 (Shreyas, 2.6), 3-40 (Kishan, 6.1), 4-81 (Pant, 12.5), 5-146 (Hardik, 18.2), 6-159 (Karthik, 19.2).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING

Jansen 4-0-38-1, Ngidi 3-0-20-2, Pretorius 4-0-41-1, Nortje 3-0-21-1, Shamsi 2-0-18-0, Maharaj 4-0-29-1.

SOUTH AFRICA

Quinton de Kock run out 14 *(13b, 2x4)*, Temba Bavuma retd. hurt 8 *(11b, 1x4)*, Dwaine Pretorius c Pant b Avesh 0 *(6b)*, Rassie van der Dussen c Ruturaj b Avesh 20 *(20b, 2x4)*, Heinrich Klaasen lbw b Chahal 8 *(8b, 1x4)*, David Miller b Harshal 9 *(7b, 1x6)*, Marco Jansen c Ruturaj b Avesh 12 *(17b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Keshav Maharaj c Shreyas b Avesh 0 *(2b)*, Anrich Nortje c Kishan b Chahal 1 *(4b)*, Lungi Ngidi c Ruturaj b Axar 4 *(10b)*, Tabraiz Shamsi (not out) 4 *(3b)*; Extras (b-4, lb-2, w-1): 7; Total (in 16.5 overs): 87.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-24 (de Kock, 4.5 overs), 2-26 (Pretorius, 5.2), 3-45 (Klaasen, 8.2), 4-59 (Miller, 10.2), 5-74 (van der Dussen, 13.2), 6-74 (Jansen, 13.4), 7-78 (Maharaj, 13.6), 8-80 (Nortje, 14.6), 9-87 (Ngidi, 16.5).

INDIA BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 2-0-8-0, Hardik 1-0-12-0, Avesh 4-0-18-4 , Harshal 2-0-3-1, Chahal 4-0-21-2, Axar 3.5-0-19-1.

Toss: SA; **MoM:** Karthik.

India won by 82 runs to level series 2-2.

Fifth T20I: June 19, Bengaluru, 7 p.m.

There was some pressure because I had not taken so far in the series. The coach trusted me and gave me another chance. Today is my father's birthday and it was a nice gift for him

AVESH

Rahul Dravid has focused on what batters and bowlers need to do and not the results... the dressing room is secure and feels fuzzy which is good. That clarity and environment has helped

KARTHIK

MP eyes a spot in summit clash

Kartikeya's strikes reduce Bengal to 96/4 in 350-run chase

RANJI TROPHY

AYAN ACHARYA
BENGALURU

Madhya Pradesh was six wickets away from its first Ranji Trophy final since 1998-99 after Kumar Kartikeya's three for 35 reduced Bengal to 96 for four in its 350-run chase at the KSCA Ground in Alur on Friday.

After Shahbaz Ahmed's five for 79 skittled MP out for 281 in its second essay, Bengal suffered an early setback when opener Abhishek Raman nicked to slip off Kartikeya's first ball.

But Abhimanyu Easwaran (52, 104b, 6x4) started well, striking three fours off Anubhav Agarwal. He added 49 off 68 for the second wicket with Sudip Gharami, who fell to a howler.

Gharami tried to reverse sweep Saransh Jain but was struck on the glove. However, umpire Ravikant Reddy gave him out lbw. Then Kartikeya clean bowled Abishek Porel with one that dipped and spun back sharply.

With Bengal 60 for three, Tiwary joined Easwaran. The injured Tiwary tried to hang around but felling playing an uppish shot off Kartikeya. Easwaran and Anustup Majumdar then fought on till stumps.

Earlier, Madhya Pradesh was sitting pretty until the Shahbaz show. Shahbaz and Pradipta Pramanik (four for 65) tossed up deliveries wide of off-stump, inviting the drive. But Rajat Patidar (79, 149, 11x4) and Aditya Shrivastava (82, 225b, 6x4) were happy to leave the ball alone.

Spinning success: Kartikeya took the big wicket of Tiwary. • K. MURALI KUMAR

But Bengal was all over MP in the first hour after lunch when it took five wickets for 41 runs. While Shahbaz had Saransh caught, Pramanik bowled Shrivastava.

Shahbaz then clung on to the sharpest of caught-and-bowled chances with his right hand as Kartikeya drove the ball back. In between, Shahbaz also had Puneet Datey out lbw.

The scores: MP — 1st innings: 341.

Bengal — 1st innings: 273.

MP — 2nd innings: Himanshu Mantri st Porel b Pramanik 21, Yash Dubey lbw b Mukesh 12, Shubham Sharma c Raman b Pramanik 26, Rajat Patidar lbw b Shahbaz 79, Aditya Shrivastava b Pramanik 82, Akshat Raghuwanshi b Shahbaz 4, Saransh Jain c Majumdar b Shahbaz 11, Puneet Datey lbw b Shahbaz 4, Anubhav Agarwal c Mondal b Pramanik 12, Kumar Kartikeya c & b Shahbaz 3, Gaurav Yadav (not out) 13; Extras (b-1, lb-11, w-2): 14; Total (in 114.2 overs): 281.

Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-50, 3-201, 4-205, 5-216, 6-247, 7-251, 8-253, 9-257.

Bengal bowling: Mukesh 19-1-64-1, Akash 19-2-47-0, Mondal 2-0-11-0, Shahbaz 41-9-79-5, Pramanik 31.2-4-65-4, Tiwary 2-0-3-0.

Bengal — 2nd innings: Abhishek Raman c Patidar b Kartikeya 0, Abhimanyu Easwaran (batting) 52, Sudip Gharami lbw b Saransh 19, Abishek Porel b Kartikeya 7, Manoj Tiwary c Gaurav b Kartikeya 7, Anustup Majumdar (batting) 8; Extras (b-1, lb-2): 3; Total (for four wkts. in 37 overs): 96.

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-49, 3-60, 4-80.

MP bowling: Kartikeya 19-7-35-3, Anubhav 2-0-14-0, Saransh 16-1-44-1.

Jaiswal and Armaan's day out

The former completes his second hundred of the match

AMOL KARHADKAR
BENGALURU

Yashasvi Jaiswal and Armaan Jaffer plundered a hapless bowling attack to help Mumbai pile on heaps of runs and shut the door on Uttar Pradesh on the penultimate day of their Ranji Trophy semifinal at Just Cricket Academy.

Riding on the duo's association of 286 runs, with Jaiswal becoming only the ninth Mumbai batter to notch hundreds in each innings of a Ranji game, Mumbai amassed 316 runs off 98 overs on Friday to end the day on 449 for four in its second innings.

With a gargantuan lead of 662 runs, Saturday's proceedings will be a mere formality. It will be interesting to see if Mumbai give its bowling pack another go at UP in a bid to register an outright win.

Multiple lives

The day, however, belonged to Jaiswal and Armaan who were offered multiple lives by UP fielders. Having dropped four catches in the first innings, UP added three more.

Jaiswal was given a reprieve at gully by Madhav Kaushik off Shivam Mavi in the fifth over of the innings. Earlier in the over, wicket-keeper Dhruv Jurel injured the middle finger of his right hand while diving down the leg and substitute Aryan Juyal stepped on for the rest of the day.

On a roll: Jaiswal became the ninth Mumbai batter to score a century in each innings of a Ranji match. • K. PICHUMANI

Jaiswal, who took 54 deliveries to open his account last evening, started milking the bowling end displayed his flamboyance only when the part-timers came in. Armaan, at the other end, enjoyed his share of luck with Priyam Garg dropping a dolly off Ankit Rajpoot just after the drinks break.

Batting on 77 and 80 respectively at lunch, Jaiswal and Armaan crossed their respective hundreds without any fuss after the break. Just before Jaffer edged Mavi to Juyal down the leg, Jaiswal was fortunate to have been caught behind off a Dayal no-ball.

With Jaiswal eyeing to convert his third consecutive hundred into a double, Mumbai batted on. But he mistimed a pull off Prince Yadav's medium-pace to see Juyal running in and neatly pouching the skier in front of the batter.

The scores:

Mumbai — 1st innings: 393.

Uttar Pradesh — 1st innings: 180.

Mumbai — 2nd innings: Prithvi Shaw c Mavi b Saurabh 64, Yashasvi Jaiswal c sub b Prince 181, Armaan Jaffer c sub b Mavi 127, Suved Parkar c & b Prince 22, Sarfaraz Khan (batting) 23, Shams Mulani (batting) 10; Extras (b-8, lb-4, nb-4, w-6): 22; Total (for four wkts. in 140 overs): 449.

Fall of wickets: 1-66, 2-352, 3-404, 4-420.

Uttar Pradesh bowling: Dayal 10-1-43-0, Rajpoot 19-4-58-0, Mavi 12-3-36-1, Prince 22-3-69-2, Saurabh 33-6-105-1, Karan 27-7-63-0, Rinku 8-0-26-0, Samarth 2-0-9-0, Kaushik 7-1-28-0.

Swinging into action

In prep mode: Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah and a few Indian players began training in Lord's for the Test against England which begins in Edgbaston on July 1. • TWITTER/BCCI

IN BRIEF

Prannoy storms into the semifinals

JAKARTA

India's H.S. Prannoy continued his impressive run as he sailed into the semifinals of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 badminton tournament with a 21-14, 21-12 win over World No. 13 Rasmus Gemke of Denmark here on Friday. A little over a month after his heroic win over Gemke in the decisive fifth rubber against Denmark which helped India reach the Thomas Cup final, Prannoy produced yet another superb performance to beat the Dane in a 40-minute quarterfinal clash. PTI

Brathwaite, Blackwood power West Indies' strong reply

NORTH SOUND

West Indies, riding on skipper Kraigg Brathwaite's 94 and Jermaine Blackwood's unbeaten 53, was 231 for six at tea in reply to Bangladesh's 103 on day two of the first Test on Friday.

The scores: Bangladesh 103 in 32.5 overs vs West Indies 231/6 in 104 overs (Kraigg Brathwaite 94, Jermaine Blackwood 53 batting, Nkrumah Bonner 33). AFP

England amasses 498, rewrites own world record

ENG IN NED

REUTERS
AMSTELVEEN

England, after being put in, broke its own world record for the highest team total in ODI history scoring 498 for four in 50 overs against a hapless Netherlands attack in the first of the three-match ODI series on Friday. The previous record was its 481 against Australia in 2018.

In reply, the Netherlands was bowled out for 266 in 49.4 overs.

Earlier, Jos Buttler, Dawid Malan and Phil Salt notched up centuries, while Liam Livingstone scored England's fastest ODI fifty.

Malan (125, 109b, 9x4, 3x6) and Salt (122, 93b, 14x4, 3x6) laid the foundation for England's record score with a 222-run partnership before Buttler (162 n.o., 70b, 7x4, 14x6) came in and accelerated the scoring in what was a brutal onslaught on the Dutch bowlers. Livingstone, who reached his fifty in 17 balls, was unbeaten on 66 off just 22 deliveries.

Buttler (162 off 70 balls)... in a murderous mood. • REUTERS

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND

Jason Roy b Snater 1 *(7b)*, Phil Salt c Boissevain b van Beek 122 *(93b, 14x4, 3x6)*, Dawid Malan c de Leede b Seelaar 125 *(109b, 9x4, 3x6)*, Jos Buttler (not out) 162 *(70b, 7x4, 14x6)*, Eoin Morgan lbw b Seelaar 0 *(1b)*, Liam Livingstone (not out) 66 *(22b, 6x4, 6x6)*; Extras (b-4, lb-2, w-14, nb-2): 22; Total (for four wkts. in 50 overs): 498.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-1 (Roy, 1.3 overs), 2-223 (Salt, 29.4), 3-407 (Malan, 44.3), 4-407 (Morgan, 44.4).

NETHERLANDS BOWLING

van Beek 10-0-82-1, Snater 10-0-99-1, Seelaar 9-0-83-2, de Leede 5-0-65-0, Boissevain 10-0-108-0, Aryan 6-0-55-0.

NETHERLANDS

Vikramjit Singh b Willey 13 *(14b, 1x4)*, Max O'Dowd b Topley 55 *(55b, 6x4, 2x6)*, Musa Ahmed c Rashid b Moeen 21 *(35b, 1x4)*, Tom Cooper c Salt b Moeen 23 *(40b)*, Bas de Leede c Livingstone b Curran 28 *(38b, 1x6)*, Scott Edwards (not out) 72 *(56b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Logan van Beek c Roy b Moeen 6 *(5b, 1x4)*, Pieter Seelaar b Willey 25 *(38b, 1x4)*, Shane Snater b Curran 4 *(3b, 1x4)*, Aryan Dutt b Topley 0 *(5b)*, Philippe Boissevain c Buttler b Malan 5 (9b, 1x4); Extras (lb-11, w-3): 14; Total (in 49.4 overs): 266.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-15, 2-95, 3-100, 4-150, 5-151, 6-165, 7-224, 8-233, 9-236.

ENGLAND BOWLING

Willey 10-0-42-2, Topley 10-0-46-2, Curran 9-0-46-2, Moeen 10-0-57-3, Rashid 10-0-59-0, Malan 0.4-0-5-1.

Toss: Netherlands.

Man-of-the-Match: Buttler.

England won by 232 runs.

Top totals in ODIs

England broke its own World record when it amassed 498 for four against Netherlands on Friday

498/4	England **vs** Netherlands, *Amstelveen*, 2022
481/6	England **vs** Australia, *Nottingham*, 2018
444/3	England **vs** Pakistan, *Nottingham*, 2016
443/9	Sri Lanka **vs** Netherlands, *Amstelveen*, 2006
439/2	South Africa **vs** West Indies, *Johannesburg*, 2015

Hadwin grabs 'incredible' lead

McIlroy leads a pack of five in second, one stroke behind

US OPEN GOLF

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BROOKLINE

Canada's Adam Hadwin birdied five of the last six holes on the front nine and seized a one-stroke lead after Thursday's first round of the US Open with Rory McIlroy in a pack one adrift.

World No. 105 Hadwin, whose best finish in 19 prior Major starts was a share of 24th at the 2018 Masters, fired a six-under 66. "To take the first round lead at the US Open is incredible. It's something no one can take away from me. But it's not the final goal," Hadwin said.

McIlroy, who tossed one club and twice swung another at the sand in frustration, shared second on 67 after a closing bogey with Sweden's David Lingmerth, England's Callum Tarren, American Joel Dahmen and South Africa's M.J. Daffue.

Day to remember: Hadwin, whose best Major finish has been a share of 24th, intends to do much better. • AFP

Top scores: 66: Adam Hadwin (Can); **67:** M.J. Daffue (RSA), David Lingmerth (Swe), Joel Dahmen (USA), Rory McIlroy (NIR), Callum Tarren (Eng).

68: Justin Rose (Eng), Matthew Fitzpatrick (Eng), Brian Harman, Dustin Johnson, Matthew NeSmith, Aaron Wise, and Hayden Buckley (all USA).

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Badminton: Indonesia Masters, Sports 18-1 & Voot Select, 10.30 a.m.
FIH Pro League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3 p.m., 6.30 p.m. & 9.30 p.m.
West Indies vs Bangladesh: 1st Test, day 3, FanCode, 7.30 p.m.
F1: Canadian GP (Qualifying), SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)

IN BRIEF

Liston Colaco clinches FPAI awards

NEW DELHI

ATKMB's Liston Colaco was named the Indian player-of-the-year while Hyderabad FC's Akash Mishra was adjudged the young player-of-the-year at the Football Players' Association of India (FPAI) Awards. HFC's Bartholomew Ogbeche was declared the foreign player-of-the-year while Manuel Marquez scooped the coach's award. In the women's section, Anju Tamang won the Indian women's player-of-the-year award while the young player award went to Manisha Kalyan. ANI

Fabio Vieira set to join Arsenal from Porto

LISBON

Portuguese midfield star Fabio Vieira is all set to join Premier League side Arsenal from Porto for €35 million after both clubs agreed to a deal in principle, it was announced on Friday. The 22-year-old could cost the Gunners up to €40 million if he achieves certain targets. AFP

Tottenham congratulates Sunil Chhetri

LONDON

Indian football team captain Sunil Chhetri received a congratulatory message from Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur for equalling Hungarian legend Ferenc Puskas' tally of 84 international goals. "Congratulations to India's @chetrisunil11 for equalling the great Ferenc Puskas with his tally of 84 international goals! #IndianFootball," Tottenham Hotspur wrote on its Twitter handle. PTI

Japan beats India in under-16 Asian basketball

DOHA

Japan defeated India 91-84 in the quarterfinals of the FIBA Under-16 Asian basketball championship here. India entered the last-eight stage for the first time in the history of the championship. **The result:** India 84 (Kushal Singh 31, Lokendra Singh 23, Harsh Dagar 21) lost to Japan 91 (Yuto Kawashima 32).

Ridhima Dilwari triumphs

BENGALURU

Ridhima Dilawari shot a par final round to win the eighth leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour, at Karnataka Golf Association course. Ridhima (one-under 215 overall) won by four shots over Jahanvi Bakshi, Seher Atwal and Pranavi Urs. Pranavi kept her position at the top of the Hero Order of Merit. **The scores (top five): 215:** Ridhima Dilawari (69, 74, 72); **219:** Jahanvi Bakshi (73, 74, 72), Seher Atwal (76, 71, 72), Pranavi Urs (74, 69, 76); **220:** Siddhi Kapoor (76, 72, 72), Afshan Fatima (73, 73, 74).

Warriors assert their supremacy

Curry's masterclass earns him a Finals MVP for the first time

NBA FINALS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BOSTON

A dazzling performance from Stephen Curry powered Golden State Warriors to a seventh NBA Finals crown on Thursday, securing a 103-90 victory over Boston Celtics to clinch a 4-2 series triumph.

Warriors talisman Curry produced yet another masterpiece with 34 points, seven assists and seven rebounds as Golden State wrapped up a fourth title in eight years.

The 34-year-old Curry was named NBA Finals Most Valuable Player after the victory – the first time the four-time NBA champion has earned the award.

Linchpins: Iguodala, Green, Thompson, and Curry celebrate the Warriors' fourth triumph in eight seasons. •AFP

Remarkable turnaround

The win completed a dramatic journey back to the pinnacle of the NBA for the Warriors, who just two seasons ago had the worst record in the league as the franchise battled injuries and the departure of key personnel.

Curry, ever-present through the highs and lows of the Warriors' journey since 2015, led a balanced offensive effort as Golden State became just the second visiting team to lift the trophy on Boston's home court after the 1985 Los Angeles Lakers.

Andrew Wiggins came up with 18 points, six rebounds, four steals and three blocks in a superb all-round display, while veterans Klay Thompson and Draymond Green chipped in with 12 points each. Jordan Poole added 15 from the bench.

Jaylen Brown led the Boston scoring with 34 points while Al Horford added 19 points.

A pulsating game swung decisively in Golden State's favour during the first two quarters.

The Warriors sprinted to a 15-point lead, up 37-22 after a 21-0 run – the largest run in NBA Finals history.

The Warriors maintained the 15-point advantage up to half-time, leading 54-39 at the break.

Curry ominously looked increasingly comfortable from beyond the arc, and a step back three from 28 feet put the Warriors into a 72-50 lead – a 22-point margin their biggest lead of the night in the third quarter.

But, Celtics chipped away at the lead, but every time they got to within single digits, Warriors managed to find a big play to extend their lead.

The result: Boston Celtics 90 (Jaylen Brown 34, Al Horford 19, Robert Williams III 10) lost to Golden State Warriors 103 (Stephen Curry 34, Andrew Wiggins 18, Klay Thompson 12, Draymond Green 12, Jordan Poole 15).

Bindyarani sets two new records

WEIGHTLIFTING

SPORTS BUREAU

Commonwealth championships silver medallist Bindyarani Devi improved upon her National records in clean and jerk and total as she won the 55kg title in the Khelo India National-ranking women's weightlifting championships at Nagrota Bagwan, Himachal Pradesh, on Friday.

The Commonwealth Games-bound Bindyarani, who lifted 84kg in snatch, recorded 115kg in her final clean and jerk attempt to get past her previous record by 1kg.

She lifted 199kg, which was also 1kg better than her previous record aggregate, to take the top spot.

Shrabani Das (185kg) finished second, while Ananya Patil (169kg) was third.

Bindyarani had set both the records in Tashkent in December when the World championships and the Commonwealth championships were held concurrently.

Bindyarani. •FILE PHOTO

The 23-year-old had failed to lift 82kg in her three snatch attempts to crash out of the National championships in Bhubaneswar in March.

The snatch record of 86kg in the women's 55kg belongs to Mirabai Chanu, who achieved the mark in the Singapore international event in February.

Another Commonwealth silver medallist Popy Hazarika (87kg, 107kg, 194kg) won the 59kg crown.

RACING

General Patton for D. Kumar Siddanna Memorial Trophy

BENGALURU: General Patton, who has been well prepared, is expected to score in the D. Kumar Siddanna Memorial Trophy (1,200m), the main event of the races to be held here on Saturday (June 18). False rails (width about 3m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 TREASURE GIRL PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 2-00 p.m.: 1. Three Aces (1) Darshan 60, 2. Ocean Dunes (2) S. John 59.5, 3. Unyielding (11) Ajinkya 59.5, 4. Dr Logan (10) Anjar 59, 5. Tifanny (4) Sandesh 57.5, 6. Morrane Gabriella (8) S. Mubarak 57, 7. Blazk Whizz (6) Raghuveer S 56, 8. Ansaldo (7) Akshay K 54.5, 9. Impeccable (5) Vinod Shinde 54.5, 10. Jokshan (3) Ashhad A 54 and 11. Stunning Beauty (9) Arvind K 54.
1. ANSALDO, 2. OCEAN DUNES, 3. TIFANNY

2 ROYAL CHALLENGE PLATE (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 2-30: 1. Elite Agent (1) Angad 62.5, 2. Klockner (2) Salman 62.5, 3. Luminary Star (5) A. Prakash 62.5, 4. Red Lucifer (6) Likith 62.5, 5. Limited Edition (7) G. Vivek 62, 6. He's The One (2) Abhay S 58.5, 7. Russian Romance (8) J.H. Arul 57.5 and 8. Smile Around (4) Siddaraju 56.
1. LIMITED EDITION, 2. RUSSIAN ROMANCE, 3. LUMINARY STAR

3 DUPONT PLATE (1,600m), rated 00 to 25, 3-00: 1. Chiraag (2) B. Nayak 60.5, 2. Turkoman (8) Sandesh 60.5, 3. Divya Shakthi (4) Dhanu S 59.5, 4. Exalted Dream (5) G. Vivek 59.5, 5. Noble Ruler (6) A. Imran 59.5, 6. Knotty Princess (1) Vishal B 59, 7. Lightning Flame (7) Dashrath S 58.5 and 8. Osibisa (3) Ajeet K 57.
1. TURKOMAN, 2. CHIRAAG, 3. LIGHTNING FLAME

4 SIR CECIL CUP (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-30: 1. Adjustment (–) (–) 56, 2. Aldgate (2) Trevor 56, 3. Ripple N Storm (6) Ajinkya 56, 4. Splendido (1) Ranjeet S 56, 5. Aguila (5) C.S. Jodha 54.5, 6. Arrowette (3) Akshay K 54.5, 7. Konabos (4) Suraj 54.5 and 8. Victoria Punch (–) (–) 54.5.
1. ARROWETTE, 2. ALDGATE

5 D. KUMAR SIDDANNA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 4-00: 1. Griffin (10) Salman 62, 2. General Patton (5) Akshay K 58.5, 3. Golden Vision (1) Siddaraju 57, 4. Secretsuperstar (11) T.S. Jodha 56.5, 5. Powerful Lady (7) K. Nazil 55.5, 6. Donna Bella (8) C.S. Jodha 55, 7. Indian Pharaoh (6) Arvind K 55, 8. Super Gladiator (9) Ashhad A 55, 9. Michigan Melody (2) Arshad 54, 10. Wings Of Desire (4) P.S. Chouhan 53.5 and 11. The Strength (3) Ajeet K 52.5.
1. GENERAL PATTON, 2. DONNA BELLA, 3. WINGS OF DESIRE

6 NOBLE PRINCE PLATE (2,000m), rated 20 to 45, 4-35: 1. Muirfield (5) S. John 60, 2. Windstorm (3) Darshan 59, 3. Serdar (4) C.S. Jodha 58, 4. Only You (1) Sandesh 54.5 and 5. Elite Crown (2) Vishal B 51.5.
1. ONLY YOU, 2. SERDAR

7 BORSALINO PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 5-10: 1. Queen Regnant (1) Bhawani S 60, 2. Hope Island (9) S. John 59.5, 3. Lycurgus (10) Arvind K 58.5, 4. Embosom (6) J.H. Arul 55.5, 5. Je Ne Sais Quoi (7) B. Nayak 55.5, 6. Star Domination (4) Kiran N 54.5, 7. Marco Polo (2) P.S. Chouhan 53.5, 8. Shan E Azeem (8) Ashhad A 53.5, 9. Tyto Alba (3) Angad 53.5 and 10. She's All Class (5) T.S. Jodha 53.
1. EMBOSOM, 2. HOPE ISLAND, 3. MARCO POLO

8 TREASURE GIRL PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 5-45: 1. Good Time Indeed (6) L.A. Rozario 62.5, 2. Anakin (1) Vinod Shinde 61.5, 3. Smithsonian (11) A. Prakash 61, 4. Baltimore (8) S. John 60, 5. Benediction (7) Akshay K 60, 6. Chul Bul Rani (9) B. Nayak 60, 7. Fernet Branca (3) Ajinkya 59.5, 8. Perfect Rendition (10) J.H. Arul 59.5, 9. See My Heels (4) Suraj 59, 10. The Response (2) Ajeet K 58 and 11. Realia (5) Ashhad A 56.5.
1. BENEDICTION, 2. SEE MY HEELS, 3. BALTIMORE

Day's best: **ONLY YOU**
Double: **TURKOMAN – EMBOSOM**
Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (i): 3, 4 and 5; (ii): 6, 7 and 8.

Sania and Hradecka pair loses

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Sania Mirza and Lucie Hradecka, the third seeds, lost 6-7(5), 6-7(7) by second seeds Lyudumila Kichenok and Jelena Ostapenko in the semifinals of the $251,750 WTA tournament in Birmingham on Friday.

Other results:
€134,920 Challenger, Ilkely, Britain: Doubles (quarterfinals): John-Patrick Smith (Aus) & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Jason Kubler & Luke Saville (Aus) 6-4, 6-4.
€45,730 Challenger, Blois (France): Sriram Balaji and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Boris Arias and Federico Zeballos 6-0, 6-3.
$15,000 ITF men, Tay Ninh, Vietnam: Quarterfinals: Digvijay Pratap Singh bt Ha Minh Duc Vu (Vie) 6-0, 6-2.

MRF National Supercross on Sunday

Off-road two-wheeler championship has attracted riders from across the country

MOTORSPORTS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

The third round of the MRF MoGrip FMSCI National Supercross championship will be held at the CODISSIA grounds here on Sunday.

Organised by Godspeed Racing, Pune, the biggest off-road two-wheeler championship has attracted riders from across the country.

Raring to go

"After two years of the pandemic, we are all excited to be back in Coimbatore. The riders are raring to go because it's both exciting and challenging," said seven-time National champion Shyam Kothari, who has been organising the championship for over two decades.

The first two rounds, back-to-back in both Nashik and Pune, saw high turnouts.

But, it was made simple and safe as the riders were coming in after a break.

"Now that the riders are sort of settled and comfortable, we decided to design a challenging track in Coimbatore, which will have three tabletops, 12 double jumps and whoops and plenty of berms. The track is about 750m," said Kothari.

Spills and thrills: Plenty of action in store in the Coimbatore round. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The 'Joker Lane'

Interestingly, after several years the 'Joker Lane' is being reintroduced. "It's going to be both interesting and challenging," he said.

Team TVS Racing has entered the season with a formidable partner in 'Petronas'. This partnership has thrilled the racing fraternity and one cannot wait to see the new avatar on the Coimbatore terrain.

The battle to watch will be the prestigious SX1 (Foreign Open) class in which the country's top riders will fight it out. The other to be keenly watched will be the Juniors SX1 & amp, SX2 that will showcase kids aged eight to 16 years. "So expect plenty of thrills in Coimbatore, a place that has passionate supercross fans," said Kothari.

Tavish Pahwa stars as India beats Pakistan

The girls also bag the gold, beating Sri Lanka in their last round-robin league match

TENNIS

SPORTS BUREAU

Tavish Pahwa won both his singles and doubles matches to help India beat Pakistan 2-1 in the final of the ITF South Asia under-12 tennis championship in Kathmandu on Friday.

The Indian girls' team also bagged the gold as it won its last round-robin league match 2-1 against Sri Lanka.

Tavish gave a strong start for India with a 6-3, 6-3 victory in the first singles. However, Pakistan equalised with Abubakar Talha beating Fazal Ali Meer 6-2, 6-7(1), 6-2. In the decisive doubles, Tavish and Fazal Ali combined very well to beat Omar Jawad and Abubakar Talha 6-3, 6-3.

Champions: The Indian under-12 boys' and girls' teams with the captains. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Both the teams, guided by coaches Irfan Ahmed and Shivika Burman, qualified for the ITF Asia under-12 championship to be played in Kazakhstan.

India girls asserted themselves against Sri Lanka, with Prachi Malik and Aahan cruising to victory in their singles matches, dropping two games in all. Sri Lanka won the inconsequential doubles rubber.

Sri Lanka also qualified for the ITF Asian under-12 championship along with India.

The results: Boys (final): India bt Pakistan 2-1 (Tavish Pahwa bt Muhammad Rizwan 6-3, 6-3; Fazal Ali Meer lost to Abubakar Talha 2-6, 7-6(1), 2-6; Fazal & Tavish bt Omar Jawad & Abubakar 6-3, 6-3).
Girls (round-robin league): India bt Sri Lanka 2-1 (Prachi Malik bt Akeesha Silva 6-1, 6-1; Aahan bt Sandhithi Archachi 6-0, 6-0; Aahan & Anandita Upadhyay lost to Akeesha & Sandhithi 4-6, 1-6).

Did the AFI err while setting the women's 400m entry standard?

The qualifying standard is very close to the Games record

Aishwarya Mishra....good for World Championships but not for the Birmingham Games •FILE PHOTO: K. RAGESH

C'WEALTH GAMES

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI

Did the Athletics Federation of India err while fixing the qualifying standard in the women's 400m for next month's Commonwealth Games in Birmingham?

It seems so. The AFI's entry standard for the Games' women's quartermile is 50.13s which is a lot faster than the gold-winning time at the last two Commonwealth Games, 2014 Glasgow (Jamaican S. McPherson's 50.67s) and 2018 Gold Coast (50.15s by Botswana's Amantle Montsho).

In fact, the AFI's qualifying standard is very close to the Commonwealth Games record (50.10s) of Montsho which came at the 2010 edition in New Delhi.

Incidentally, Montsho – the 2011 World champion – was sent home in disgrace from the 2014 Commonwealth Games, and later suspended for two years, after testing positive for the banned stimulant methylhexaneamine in Glasgow where she had finished fourth.

Lenient for men

While the task was tough for women, the AFI appears to have been very lenient when it came to the men's 400m entry standard (45.30s), which is almost the time (45.31s) clocked by National record holder Muhammed Anas while finishing fourth in the 2018 Commonwealth Games (Botswana's Issac Makwala took the gold in 44.35s).

Those standards we set nine months ago on our website. Why are you raising it now? No one raised it till today.
SUMARIWALLA
AFI president

The fourth place in the women's 400m in the 2018 Games came in 51.17s.

Surprisingly, the World Athletics' entry standard in the women's quartermile for next month's World Championships in Oregon (USA) is more than a second slower at 51.35s, a time Maharashtra's Aishwarya Mishra comfortably beat while winning the Federation Cup gold at Thenipalam, Kerala, in early April.

The qualification standard for last year's Tokyo Olympics was also 51.35s.

One was surprised to see names like Aishwarya Mishra, Kiran Pahal, and Priya Mohan, Asia's three fastest quartermilers this year, missing from the Indian team for Birmingham which was announced on Thursday.

"Those standards we set nine months ago on our website. Why are you raising it now? No one raised it till today," Adille Sumariwalla, the AFI president, told *The Hindu* on Friday.

But what was the logic behind setting such a tough standard?

"I'm sure there is a logic with the team of experts that worked on it. I can't tell you offhand."

Sneha beats Ananya

TABLE TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
ALAPPUZHA

Tamil Nadu's Ananya Muralidharan stretched 15-ranked Sneha Bhowmick in the qualification round of the youth girls' under-17 category in the 83rd National junior and youth table tennis championships here on Friday.

After losing the first two games, Ananya staged a fine rally to pocket the next two but ran out of steam as Sneha upped the ante and won 11-6, 11-6, 9-11, 7-11, 11-3.

Ananya later defeated Gurpreet Kaur of Punjab 11-5, 11-4, 11-8 for her first win in the group.

The progression of the other group favourites in the under-17 category were orderly with Nandini Saha (Bengal), Sriya Anand (TTTA), Sayankika Maji (Delhi), K. Disha (UP) and Nehal Venkataswamy (TTTA) winning their matches.

There was something to cheer about for Kerala as Pranati P. Nair staged a fine comeback to down Arnee Parmar of Gujarat 9-11, 4-11, 11-9, 11-8, 11-4 and keep her qualification hopes alive.

However, Pranati should beat Tamil Nadu's Anushkaa Dutta as the latter had downed Arnee 11-5, 11-6, 11-5.

In under-19 category, Jennifer Varghese of Maharashtra crushed Parneet Saini of Chandigarh 11-5, 11-4, 11-2.

Kerala's Rukimi R. Varma pulled off a thrilling win over Punjab's Ridhima Malhotra 9-11, 2-11, 11-6, 11-9, 17-15 to stay alive.